

match

WEEKLY

Saturday Dec 25 1982 35p



THE STARS OF MATCH WEEKLY WISH YOU

A MERRY CHRISTMAS

FIRST AGAIN! ENGLAND AND SCOTLAND COLOUR ACTION

PLUS: VILLA TEAM GROUP ... PUZZLES ... PRIZES

MATCH

SAYS

DON'T be fooled by England's 9-0 thrashing of little Luxembourg at Wembley last week.

It was a great result, but the opposition was arguably the weakest Bobby Robson's men are ever likely to meet in an important international.

So we say, the sooner heads in high places are removed from the sand, the sooner England will have a realistic chance of reclaiming world recognition as a soccer power.

If League matches are postponed next season on the weekend before an international, then at least there can be no real excuses for failure.

It would simply be down to the quality of our players and the team selection of manager Bobby Robson.

But, while the new England boss continues to battle with an old chestnut, his search for continuity and consistency will remain out of reach.

The folly of our old-fashioned ways was never better illustrated than before the clash with the no-hopers from Luxembourg.

The brave part-timers were only over here for the ride, yet still **THEIR** League football was called off on the

Saturday before the match.

And in that very same week, the League allowed Aston Villa to bring forward their Saturday game at Arsenal to allow them more time to prepare for the World Club Championship in Tokyo.

So in a week when there were no midweek arrangements, why couldn't other matches have been re-arranged from the Saturday programme, or is the pressure from the lucrative pools promoters a little too stifling?

Let's face it, in a normal season, we are talking about three or four Saturdays at the most that would need to be kept clear for international dates.

And with the perennial cry that a successful England team is essential for the welfare of the game at League level, then surely that's not too much to ask.

● **ENGLAND'S** European Championship clash with Luxembourg... action special in full colour on Pages 28 and 29.

SOCCER'S chiefs have been slammed for playing 'Russian Roulette' with England's international future.

But instead of gambling on a deadly bullet, England manager Bobby Robson is forced to play a crazy game of chance with his players.

Says Ipswich and England defender Terry Butcher, a former victim of the farcical dilemma: "It's mad that top players are forced to play tough League games just four days before an international."

"It's like playing 'Russian Roulette'. The manager never knows who will survive fit enough for international duty."

Just 13 players were fit enough to train when England reported on the Sunday before the Luxembourg game. The casualty list was headed by skipper Bryan Robson and included Steve Coppell, Paul Mariner, Gary Mabbutt, Paul Goddard, Ricky Hill and Tommy Caton.

Liverpool's Phil Thompson — a certainty for the side — and West Ham midfielder Alan Devonshire weren't even fit enough to make the trip after picking up injuries the day before.

After reviewing his injured troops, Bobby Robson complained sadly: "As long as you are going to play on a Saturday, you are going to risk your players."

"It is the same frustration before each match. I'm not able to pick and prepare the team I would like to play."

The new England boss has the wholehearted support of the players. His former Ipswich club-mate Terry Butcher continues: "Saturday games before an international should be cancelled and the sooner the better."

"It must be very frustrating for Bobby Robson who has to sit by the telephone on a Saturday evening awaiting calls from injured players."

"All his plans are thrown out of the window because he doesn't know which players

THIS

match
WEEKLY

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FRONT COVER CAPTION:
Christmas greetings from 'Match'
columnists Glenn Hoddle, Paul
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Rix and David Cross.



Terry Butcher (left) and West Ham's Alan Devonshire (right) — both critical of England's lack of time to prepare for internationals.

will recover from knocks in time to play.

"My team-mate Paul Mariner was a classic example before the Luxembourg game. He picked up an injury on the Saturday against Everton and battled for two days to be fit. In the end, he didn't make it."

Terry speaks from personal experience because he was forced to miss England's game against Greece last month after being injured the Saturday before.

"I believe we also need more time together to create a better understanding. The advantage of that showed during the first phase of the World Cup Finals in Spain during the summer."

"The understanding and teamwork from England then was the best that I've seen for quite a while, says Terry."

"When you are living alongside the same players for any length of time, you get to know them and their habits. It all helps on the field. You get to know how different players react to different situations."

"Being a defender, I find it

very important to establish a working relationship with fellow members of my back four and the goalkeeper. You can't get that in a day or so.

"If you have ten days together, there's more time for the manager to work on those dead-ball situations that can win matches."

"The only time First Division games were called off to help the England cause was when we played Hungary in that vital World Cup qualifier a year ago. The fact that we won and went to Spain proves my point."

West Ham star Alan Devonshire has had to pull out of the last two international squads after picking up late injuries. He says: "I'm beginning to wonder whether I'll ever play for England again."

"There's no doubt that I could have made the substitute's bench for the Luxembourg game if our League match with Coventry had been postponed."

"England's next international is in March and that means I've got to prove myself all over

again. I was really delighted to be in the Luxembourg Squad. Now I have to hope he picks me again."

"Every other top footballing nation in the country gives their side proper time to prepare for internationals. I can't understand why England should be any different."

Alan admits that it could take a disastrous defeat — against the likes of Luxembourg — to make the powers that be change their archaic attitude towards international preparation.

"The fact that England beat Greece 3-0 in Salonika has given us a false sense of security. If we suffered a bad defeat, people might think differently."

"Up to now, I've been capped five times for my country and I regard my last appearance against West Germany as my best. It was because I was beginning to get used to my team-mates."

"When a player joins a new club, it takes him about eight games before he's fully settled

into the side. It's the same at international level. You need as much time together as possible."

"To be thrown together three days before a big international is hard. It just isn't enough time to prepare," says Alan.

"If England are doing well at international level, it reflects well on the game generally. It's important that the national side gets the best possible chance to shine."

Liverpool's experienced full-back Phil Neal, whose international career looked over until an injury to Viv Anderson, says: "England would definitely benefit from a few extra days together."

"League games should be brought forward to, say, Thursday — so that the England manager can have a week to prepare his players."

"I'm not sure that ten days together would be beneficial because it would wreck a player's routine. At Liverpool, we are used to playing twice a week."

"Extra time together would give the manager time to blend the team, however, and international football is all about getting the right players together."

Luther Blissett became the first Watford player to play for England at full international level when he kicked off against Luxembourg last week.

He only made the side because 'Match' columnist and Ipswich striker Paul Mariner was a late injury victim but he says:

"It would obviously help the England manager if his squad members weren't playing the Saturday before an international to avoid the risk of injury and I would expect it's a situation that must be looked into."

Of course Luther's chance against Luxembourg turned out to be a dream debut — the black bombshell hitting a hat-trick as England ran out 9-0 winners.

But he declares: "I should have had five — possibly six at a stretch. But that's me — I always miss more than I score."

"Bobby Robson just told me to play my normal game and get in as many shots as possible to put pressure on their defence."

"It's probably lucky for me that I made my debut against a team like Luxembourg, but I prefer to play against better opposition — only then do you find out how well equipped you are to cope at this level."

CRAZY GAMBLE!

WITH ENGLAND'S FUTURE

THE EVIDENCE

SINCE Bobby Robson took over as England manager there have been eight instances of key squad players being unable to play because of injuries incurred on the Saturday before.

Against Denmark, Phil Thompson and Steve Coppel were the victims.

Against Greece it was Coppel again, plus Terry Butcher and Graham Rix.

And against Luxembourg Phil Thompson (for the second time), Alan Devonshire and Paul Mariner were all last minute casualties.

And remember, there have been many more involved in a desperate race to get fit...

Why bother? England on sick parade. Robson in injury fever.

The headlines that preluded England's crucial European Championship qualifier against Luxembourg at Wembley last week told their own story.

England manager Bobby Robson was left with just 13 fit squad members on the day he was due to announce his team. He was left angry, frustrated and pleading for a postponement of League fixtures on the Saturday before an international to avoid last minute injury to his players.

Then, for the first time, he could perhaps field his 'first choice team'.

'Match Weekly' backs his plea... and so do his players, as reporter Anthony Hawkswell discovered.

ENJOY Christmas with the stars! Reporter Dave Smith plays 'Santa' for 'Match Weekly' to discover the festive hopes of five top players . . .

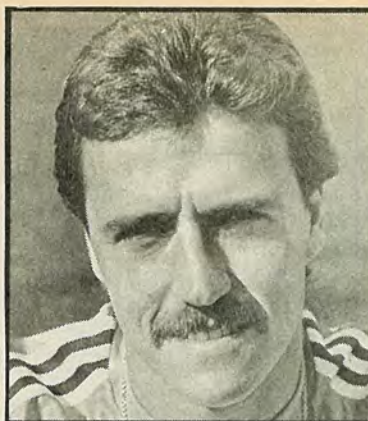


JOHN RICHARDS WOLVES

At home. I can't think of anywhere better to spend Christmas Day.

As above. But this year I will be able to spend the whole day at home. Normally I have to leave half way through opening the presents to go training.

Comedian Les Dawson. He is a tremendously funny man and I love being with people who make me laugh.



DAVID MOSS LUTON

At some big, posh hotel anywhere in England where everything is done for you and the wife doesn't have to bother about cooking the Christmas dinner.

At home. Normally I have to train on Christmas Day but we get the whole day off this year because we don't play until Monday.

Cannon and Ball. My children love them and I like to be with people who make me laugh.



LOU MACARI MAN UTD

At the top of the First Division — and hopefully stay there until May!

I'll be at home most of the day but we have to go training for an hour in the afternoon to run the Christmas pudding off.

Russ Abbott or Benny Hill. If they were in the house over Christmas it would certainly be a laugh a minute. If I was to choose a team-mate at Manchester United it would be Gordon McQueen because he's a very funny man and makes me laugh.

Where would you most like to spend Christmas Day?

Where will you spend Christmas Day?

Who would you most like to spend Christmas Day with?

CHRISTMAS WITH

Who will you spend Christmas Day with?

My wife, Pam, and two girls, Kim and Abbie — after all, that is what Christmas is all about.

What present would you most like to get at Christmas?

A few goals for Derby County over the Christmas period — and a bottle of champagne to celebrate afterwards.

What would be your Christmas wish for football?

I would like people to realise their responsibility to football and be just as forthcoming with their praise as they are with their criticism.

My wife and kids, and relatives from my side of the family.

A spanking new BMW car, a few goals and maximum points over the Christmas period.

I would like to see an end to hooliganism at football matches so that parents are more willing to take their children along. And on a personal note I would like to reach my target of 15 goals by the end of the season.

My wife Dale-Marie and three boys, Michael, Paul and Johnathan.

An inflatable referee to give my colleague Ashley Grimes. He has had to put up with a lot of light-hearted banter since he was sent off against West Ham.

There is nothing wrong with football at the moment — apart from the people who keep knocking it.



TONY MORLEY ASTON VILLA

In bed. I'd love to spend the whole day relaxing and watching the cartoons on television.

Training in the morning followed by a quiet Christmas lunch.

Farrah Fawcett-Majors or the girls from Hot Gossip! But seriously, I would like to be able to spend Christmas with my family back home in Lancashire.



ERIC GATES IPSWICH

'Geordieland'. I'd love to be able to spend Christmas back in my native North East, but football comes first.

It will be down to the ground for training in the morning and then back home for a quiet lunch with my family.

With relatives and friends in the North East — I don't get to see them as much as I would like.



Stunning blonde actress Farrah Fawcett-Majors — she was the choice of Aston Villa's flying winger Tony Morley when we put the question: Who would you most like to spend Christmas Day with?

THE STARS

My landlady and a few friends.

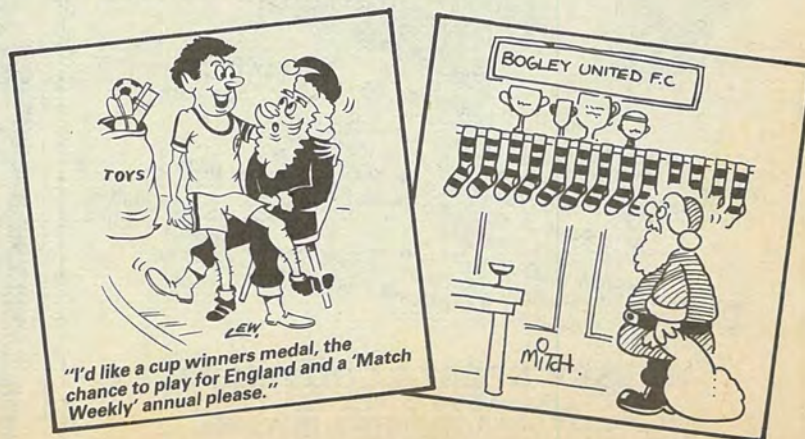
The chance to play the World Club Championship Final again, but this time on a decent pitch (see Page 35)

I would love to see the spectators coming through the turnstiles in their droves again — there's nothing better than playing in front of a packed crowd.

My wife and son Martyn — and hopefully a new addition to the family whose arrival is expected anytime now.

A phone call from the manager of a top club with £650,000 to spend and a stocking full of goals over the holiday period.

I hope the country's struggling clubs pull through the recession and start to make money. I would also like to see transfer fees slashed . . . not just for my sake, but for the sake of the game.



SANTA'S SACK

CHRISTMAS is a time for giving and here at 'Match', we're in generous mood again with our 'Santa's Sack' — a bumper collection of presents for soccer's celebrities:

TO RON SAUNDERS — One of Ron Atkinson's bracelets — with lucky charms attached — to lift Birmingham's gipsy curse!

TO PAT JENNINGS: A real crowd to play in front of — instead of the cardboard cut-out fans that applaud his TV commercial saves!

TO LIVERPOOL AND CELTIC — A gallon of 'Brasso' — to clean all the silverware they'll collect this season!

TO NORWICH FANS: A purse — perhaps they'll keep their loose change in it rather than throw it on the pitch!

TO BOB PAISLEY — A Bell's tanker — to store all the scotch he wins as manager of the month/year/decade!

TO JUSTIN FASHANU — A calculator — to work out how much he's paid for playing in the Central League!

TO BRISTOL CITY — A stepladder — so they can climb back up the Football League!

TO FRENCH STRIKERS — A suit of armour to wear in Harald Schumacher's penalty area!

JOY OF THE ROVERS...

FOURTH Division Tranmere Rovers received the ideal Christmas gift... a cash lifeline to enable them to carry on.

Their Fairy Godmother is the local Wirral Council who have stepped into prevent Tranmere closing its doors this month.

They have come up with a £200,000 deal that will enable them to find other ways of using the Prenton Park ground.

JOE IS BUBBLING!

CHRISTMAS cheer for former Birmingham skipper Joe Gallagher.

He's been given the chance to resurrect his career in the First Division with West Ham.

Big Joe was snapped up by the Londoners for a month's trial within a few days after he had his contract torn up by Second Division Wolves.

West Ham manager John Lyall decided to give Joe a chance because of injuries and suspension to key defenders.

KITCHEN SINKER

LOOKING forward to Christmas in England is former Orient striker Peter Kitchen.

He's back in London after an 'unhappy' spell in Hong Kong with the 'Happy Valley' club.

Peter, who is only training with Orient at the moment, spent only four months in the colony.

"Hong Kong isn't the place the holiday brochures make it out to be," he says. "I stayed in a small, dingy flat in a dirty part of town."

TOP MARK

STOKE manager Richie Barker was on hand to present his young goalkeeper Mark Harrison with Match Weekly's First Division 'Matchman of the Month' award for October.

Mark put on some brilliant displays during the month, notably against Liverpool and Manchester United.

THE JANUARY SALE STARTS HERE



All products made in Great Britain



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Top team SWEATSHIRTS in fleecy grey with embroidered team motif (must sew on yourself). ★ All league teams available ★
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BOB'S BLUNDER

IT was a case of 'It wasn't all right on the night' for BBC sports presenter Bob Wilson when rounding off his Friday evening spot on Sportswide.

The 'Match of the Day' co-presenter had literally six seconds to remind viewers about Sunday's programme.

The former Arsenal goalkeeper takes up the story: "If a programme is live, and therefore you are under pressure, inevitably you can make mistakes.

"I had only six seconds in vision to round-off my spot. My intended words were 'Don't forget to watch 'Match of the Day'."

"Before I realised, I was off the air having said 'Don't forget to miss 'Match of the Day'.' It was too late to correct it."

LOOKING for that last minute Christmas stocking filler?

Match Weekly's 'All-Star Soccer Special 1983' is the answer.

Packed with colour pictures, stories, competitions, quizzes and facts it's a must for every football fan.

Look out for the distinctive 'Match' logo on the bookshelves — the soccer special offers real value for money and hours of enjoyment for just £2.25.

WRITE-OFF BRUCE HAS A POINT TO PROVE

LIVERPOOL goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar has an added incentive for wanting to ensure that the reigning League champions keep their title and stay ahead of Manchester United.

When he was younger, Bruce was once told by a former goalkeeper that he'd never make the grade.

That ex-pro was Roy Bailey, father of Manchester United's Gary.

A second successive Championship medal would be sweet satisfaction indeed!

DAVID Mills, who has had a chequered time at West Brom since his then record £500,000 transfer from Middlesbrough four years ago, got his name back in lights at Tottenham this month.

Coming on as a substitute for his first taste of First Division football this season, he snatched an equaliser with his very first kick to earn West Brom a valuable point.



A MERRY CHRIS_TMAS!

JONES IS HAPPY TO BE BACK IN LONDON

FORMER Spurs striker Chris Jones looked back on his unhappy three-month stay at Manchester City and admitted: "I made a mistake."

Chris, who has returned to London with Crystal Palace, hoped that the move to Maine Road would revive a career which has stood still for the last two years because of injuries.

But instead of being catapulted back into the big time, Chris found himself in the City reserves and longing for a move back to the capital.

"I soon became disillusioned and depressed at City. When I signed for them I was told that I'd get a chance of making it in the first team.

"I played a couple of games and thought I'd done quite well but, for some reason, I was left out and things started to go sour for me.

"At my age, playing in the reserves is no good to me and I couldn't see myself breaking into the Manchester City team," says the 26-year-old.

"The move to Palace was an early Christmas present for me. My wife and family didn't settle well up there and missed London. We all wanted to come back."

Chris isn't worried that he's had to drop into the Second Division to get his chance of regular football. He says: "I'm just happy to be playing.

"Crystal Palace are a big club and I believe they are destined for the top flight very soon. They may have had a couple of bad years but they seem to have sorted themselves out now."

Chris made a sensational start to his Selhurst Park career when he scored just four minutes into his debut against Wolves.

"It was a great game to play in and a tremendous way for me to begin my spell at Palace. The only sad thing was that we lost 4-3.

"I'm really enjoying it at Selhurst Park. It's fabulous to be involved with a first team again. You feel so out of touch in the reserves.

"Now I'm hoping that I can repay manager Alan Mullery's faith in me and help Palace get back to the First Division.

"I'm determined to play there again and prove that I'm capable of producing the goods in the top flight," adds Chris.

Chris Jones — early Christmas present with a return to London.

MATCH CHAT

Compiled by Melvyn Beck

BID FOR CHARITY

ARE there any readers who would like to bid for a souvenir of soccer history and help someone in need?

On offer is an autographed programme of Northern Counties East League side Shepshed Charterhouse's historic F.A. Cup First Round visit to Preston.

The players of both teams autographed the programme which is being auctioned in aid of the Loughborough University Students' Charity Appeal of which MENCAP (an organisation catering for the mentally handicapped) is the main beneficiary.

The programme will go to the highest bidder by the end of next month.

If you are interested, put in a written offer to Chris Hartle, of 19 Brookwillow Road, Halesowen, West Midlands.



A GIFT FOR KENNY

AN early Christmas present for Arsenal and England full-back Kenny Sansom from his number one fan... smiling daughter Natalie.

Natalie wanted to show the whole world who her daddy was, hence the T-shirt and suitable inscription: "To Daddy, Love Natalie."

REALLY BOOTIFUL!

ALDRSHOT defender Ian Wood decided to tackle the Christmas turkeys in the family business rather than opposing forwards in the Fourth Division.

He quit League football at the beginning of the month to join the family butchery business in his native Mansfield.

■ PETER Cartwright, on loan from Newcastle, marked his debut for revitalised Scunthorpe with a goal in the Fourth Division team's 2-0 win at Hereford.

It clinched victory for the promotion chasers who, at the beginning of the month, possessed the only unbeaten away record in the Football League.

BILLY SOCKS IT TO CHARLIE!

SCOTLAND hot-shot Charlie Nicholas is apparently an ardent follower of fashion.

At one time, the Celtic star turned up for training without wearing socks because it was the 'in-thing' at the time.

But manager Billy McNeill said he felt that wasn't acceptable and threatened to fine the young striker if he did it again.

That seemed to do the trick until one day McNeill spotted Charlie without any socks again.

It appeared that the player had been driving to the ground without them, but had been putting them on in his car before being spotted.

But on that occasion he had forgotten...



"Never mind what we want this year — what happened to the promotion you promised the team last year!"

IT'S FUN TIME



"Before we start — may I, on behalf of our team, wish you a very happy Christmas."



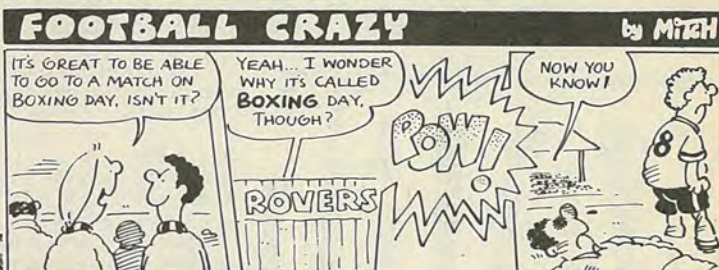
"It isn't surprising we couldn't find our men. Fancy playing in an all-white strip!"



"Compliments of the season to you... and can we have our ball back please!"



"Dear Father Christmas, I know I asked you for a striker but can I change that for two full-backs and a goalkeeper?"



IT'S GREAT TO BE ABLE TO GO TO A MATCH ON BOXING DAY, ISN'T IT?

YEAH... I WONDER WHY IT'S CALLED BOXING DAY, THOUGH?

NOW YOU KNOW!

GOALKEEPER SCHOOLS 1983



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PAUL COOPER
*BRUCE GROBBELAAR
PHIL PARKES

*Bruce Grobbelaar Schools to be held in Manchester.

SCOTLAND now have to win all their remaining matches in the European Championship to qualify for a place in the Finals.

That's the only hope we have left following our disappointing 3-2 defeat against Belgium in Brussels.

In fact we find ourselves in the worst position of any of the British countries taking part in the Championship — but that's not to say we've given up hope.

Although the Belgians are now strong favourites to go through — and if they do they are capable of doing very well indeed — we've still got a chance as long as there are games left to play.

The result against Belgium was very disappointing, but I was pleased with the way we performed. Having said that, I'd much rather we had played badly and picked up both points in such an important game.

Following our 2-0 defeat in Switzerland last month, we quite rightly got a lot of stick in the press, so it was pleasing that we at least showed the fight and determination we lacked against the Swiss.

In many ways, we were unlucky not to win. If you play a team like Belgium, score two goals against them on their own ground and still lose, you've got to feel sick.

We came off the pitch having had more of the game. They got three chances during the entire 90 minutes and stuck them all away. That's how deadly the Belgians are.

After taking the lead twice — through two marvellous goals from my Liverpool team-mate Kenny Dalglish — we let them back into the match and then missed a penalty. The spot-kick was the killer blow.

The referee bravely awarded the kick just ten minutes from time when I was pushed in the back by a Belgian defender.

The home side disputed the award and said I took a tumble in the box. That's not true. I definitely felt a push.

As Frank stepped up to take the penalty, I knew that it was the vital moment in the game for us. We were 3-2 down at the time but the game was still there for the taking.

It was as good a penalty kick as the Leeds defender has ever taken and the goalkeeper did exceptionally well to push the ball round the post.

Of course he moved before the ball was kicked! He'd taken

WE'RE NOT FINISHED YET

THE GRAEME SOUNESS COLUMN

two steps before Frank had even touched the ball.

We were all very sick for Frank and there's no way he can be blamed for the miss.

One of the highlights of Scotland's performance was the form of Kenny Dalglish — back in an international shirt after missing the last three games.

Ever since the World Cup Finals in Spain, people have been writing him off. Just because he is over 30, they've been saying that Kenny isn't as deadly as he was.

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

COLOUR ACTION:
Scotland's clash with Belgium — Page 28.

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

But he's taken it all in his stride — he never complained in the press. Kenny is the sort of person who likes his football to do the talking and that's what he did against Belgium.

We at Liverpool never doubted his ability. We all knew that he still had a lot to offer both his club and country.

His second goal against Belgium was as good a one as you'll ever see. He turned beautifully, beat a defender and then flashed a tremendous shot towards goal.

Kenny has got a tremendous turn and his reflexes are so quick. You've got to be brave to turn like he can because there are always people behind waiting to kick you.

While Scotland were being defeated in Belgium, England were building up a cricket score against Luxembourg at Wembley and I was really pleased for them.

If their group ever has to be decided on goal difference — which I doubt — England should now be in the driving seat after hammering nine goals past the little nation.

Even though England were playing a bunch of part-timers, there are no easy games in international football any more. That's why their performance was so impressive.

You could take 11 guys off the street and still make it difficult for an international team — so it just goes to show that England's preparation and frame of mind was absolutely right.

Northern Ireland suffered a backlash from their excellent 1-0 win over World Cup runners-up West Germany last month when they were surprisingly held to a 0-0 draw against Albania.

But it's always going to be difficult when you've got to travel to such far-flung places and play in different conditions than those you are used to.

It was a disappointing result for the Irish but I don't believe they should feel too down-hearted. I believe they've got a chance of going through even though the Germans must still be favourites.

My Liverpool team-mate Ian Rush was one of the scorers on a great night for Wales. To come back from being two goals behind to draw against Yugoslavia away from home has to be a great result.

The next games in the European Championships are in March so now I've got to push Scotland's latest disappointment to the back of my mind and concentrate on making it a happy Christmas for Liverpool.

See you in two weeks!
● Graeme Souness was talking to Anthony Hawkswell.



Funny Focus

ENJOY a Christmas giggle with Queen's Park Rangers' footballing funny man **JOHN GREGORY**.

FULL NAME: John Charles Gregory.
BIRTHPLACE/DATE: Scunthorpe, May 11, 1956.
HEIGHT/WEIGHT: 5ft 12½ins/12st 4lbs.
MARRIED: Yes, to Michelle.
CHILDREN: Louisa and Stewart.
CAR: BMW 728.
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Northampton, Aston Villa and Brighton.
TRADE BEFORE TURNING PRO: Laboratory technician (honest!).
CLUB NICKNAME: 'JG' or 'Gregs'.
WORST EVER INJURY: Nothing too serious.
FAVOURITE FOOTBALL LEAGUE PLAYER AND WHY: Glenn Hoddle... he possesses ability that every footballer in England should be envious of.
FAVOURITE OTHER TEAM: Tottenham.
FAVOURITE FOREIGN PLAYER AND WHY: Mario Kempes... because he's got nice, long curly hair.
BEST ALL-TIME BRITISH TEAM: Jennings, Reaney, Knowles, Hunter, Giles, Moore, Ball, Greaves, Osgood, Hoddle, Robertson.
ALL-TIME INTERNATIONAL XI: Jennings (N. Ireland), Kaltz (W. Germany), Knowles (England), Beckenbauer (W. Germany), Hunter (England), Cruyff (Holland), Hoddle (England), Bettiga (Italy), Greaves (England), Kempes (Argentina), Rensenbrink (Holland).
FAVOURITE AWAY GROUND: White Hart Lane.
FAVOURITE FOREIGN STADIUM AT WHICH YOU



HAVE PLAYED: Olympic Stadium, Ashkelon, Israel.
BEST GOAL SCORED: A goal for Aston Villa against Manchester United in 1978.
BEST GOAL SEEN SCORED: A Jimmy Greaves goal for Tottenham against Newcastle in 1966.
MOST MEMORABLE GAME: Aston Villa's 4-1 defeat of Tottenham in August 1978, plus the two FA Cup Final matches against Tottenham this year.
OWN MAGIC MOMENT IN FOOTBALL: Skipping Aston Villa in the First Division.
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTS: Tennis, snooker and hang-gliding.
MISCELLANEOUS LIKES: Flower arranging, baking bread, playing my Charles Aznavour albums and training my pet gerbil.
MISCELLANEOUS DISLIKES: Coffee mornings and Pippa-Dee parties.
FAVOURITE TV SHOW: Houseparty.
TV SHOW YOU ALWAYS SWITCH OFF: On The Move.
FAVOURITE READING: Spike Milligan.
FAVOURITE POP STARS: Japan, The Jam and Robert Palmer.
BEST COUNTRY VISITED: Holland.
FAVOURITE ACTOR/ACTRESS: Alfie Noakes, Woody Allen and Stefanie Powers.
BEST FRIEND: My business partner, Dave Robbins.
BIGGEST INFLUENCES ON CAREER: John Stitch and Terry Venables.
WHAT DON'T YOU LIKE ABOUT FOOTBALL: Playing on grass!
SUPERSTITIONS: Shorts on last and I run out fourth.
PRE-MATCH MEAL: Poached eggs.
INTERNATIONAL HONOURS: None.
PERSONAL AMBITION: For my family and I to be able to continue to live in poverty.
PROFESSIONAL AMBITION: To win the League Championship with Rangers.
CAREER AFTER PLAYING: I would like to continue in football in some capacity.
PLAYER FOR THE FUTURE: QPR's Martin Duffield.
WHO WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET: Paul and Linda McCartney (again).
ADVICE TO APPRENTICES: Dedicate yourself completely to the game. Thousands of kids would love to have your chance, don't waste yours.

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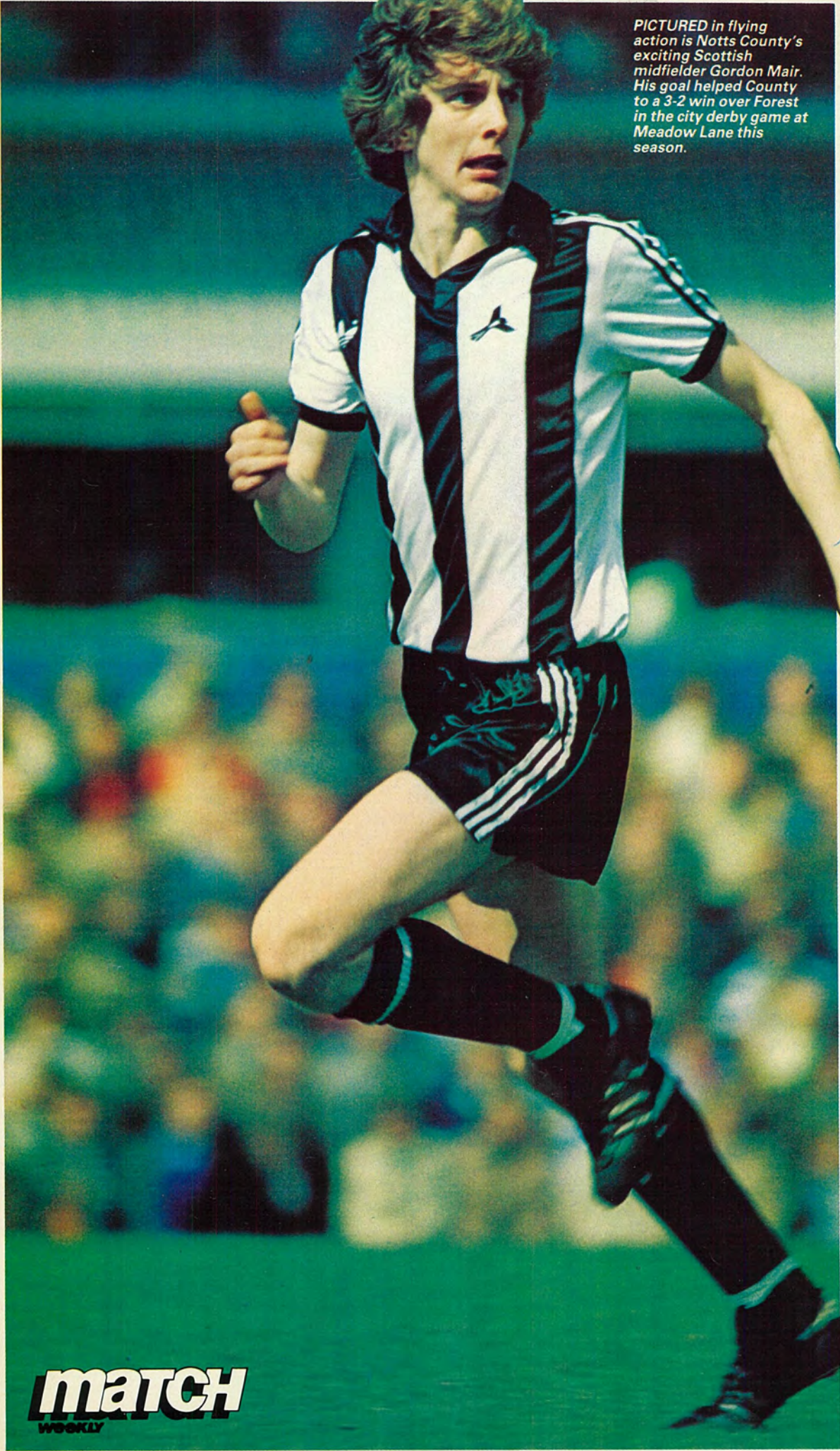
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PICTURED in flying action is Notts County's exciting Scottish midfielder Gordon Mair. His goal helped County to a 3-2 win over Forest in the city derby game at Meadow Lane this season.

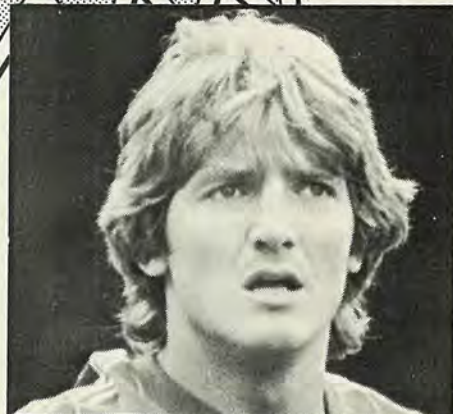
GORDON MAIR

match
WEEKLY

STAR CHALLENGE



Ipswich Town's Russell Osman (right) and his challenger Stephen Garrow (left).



CHRISTMAS STAR GUEST Russell Osman

CHRISTMAS spirit goes out of the window for 90 minutes on Monday with the Boxing Day fixtures serving up a feast of 'local derby' football.

And you can rest assured that there will be no presents given away as each side bids to knock the turkey stuffing out of their Yuletide opponents.

There will certainly be plenty of Christmas cheer on the North Bank at Highbury with Arsenal looking to celebrate the festive season in style with a victory over great London rivals Spurs.

There's another local derby at Portman Road where Ipswich and Norwich will be engaged in a battle for supremacy in East Anglia.

And the player in the 'Star Challenge' hot seat this week, Russell Osman of Ipswich, will no doubt be in the thick of the action in that game.

Looking forward to the crunch match, the England defender says: "It will be a tricky game but, if we play the way we have been just lately, we can win."

Victory will ensure a happy Christmas period for Russell, who this week has been challenged by 13-year-old Ipswich fan Stephen Garrow, of Glasgow, Scotland.

The name of the game is forecasting results and Russell has tried to predict more correct scorelines than his challenger.

Each week we select ten matches and points are awarded depending on the accuracy of the forecasts. Stephen will be awarded a special 'Star Challenge' certificate if he scores more than the Ipswich star.

Win or lose, every challenger receives a personally autographed picture of their favourite player.

If you would like to take part in 'Star Challenge', all you have to do is write in, enclosing your name, age and address — together with a black and white photograph of yourself — and most importantly your phone number.

And don't forget to tell us your favourite team and top player. Write to: Star Challenge, Match Weekly, Stirling House, Bretton, Peterborough PE3 8DJ.

● **Bad luck to 'Match' reader Michelle German of Twickenham, Middlesex, who was beaten six points to five by Fulham striker Gordon Davies in the December 11 'Star Challenge'.**

Despite losing, Michelle still receives a personally autographed picture of her Craven Cottage favourite.

FIXTURES

Monday Dec. 27
DIVISION ONE

Arsenal v Spurs
Birmingham v Aston Villa
Brighton v Southampton
Ipswich v Norwich
Liverpool v Man. C.
Luton v Watford
Man. U. v Sunderland
Nott'm F. v Coventry
Stoke v Everton
West Brom v Notts Co.
West Ham v Swansea

DIVISION TWO

Barnsley v Sheff. Wed.
Bolton v Carlisle
Burnley v Blackburn
C. Palace v Charlton
Fulham v Cambridge
Middlesbrough v Leicester
Newcastle v Derby
Oldham v Leeds
Q.P.R. v Chelsea
Rotherham v Grimsby
Shrewsbury v Wolves

DIVISION THREE

Bournemouth v Reading
Cardiff v Newport
Exeter v Plymouth
Gillingham v Southend
Huddersfield v Chesterfield
Oxford v Bristol R.
Portsmouth v Brentford
Preston v Bradford
Sheff. Utd. v Doncaster
Walsall v Lincoln
Wrexham v Wigan

DIVISION FOUR

Aldershot v Swindon
Bristol C. v Port Vale
Hartlepool v Darlington
Hull v Halifax
Northampton v Crewe
Peterborough v Colchester
Scunthorpe v Rochdale
Stockport v Blackpool
Torquay v Hereford
Tranmere v Chester
Wimbledon v Mansfield
York v Bury

SCOTTISH
PREMIER DIVISION

Aberdeen v Kilmarnock
Celtic v Morton
Dundee United v Motherwell
Hibernian v Rangers
St. Mirren v Dundee

FIRST DIVISION

Airdrie v Raith
Ayr v Hearts
Clydebank v Alloa
Dunfermline v Hamilton
Falkirk v Dumbarton
Queen's Park v Partick
St. Johnstone v Clyde

SECOND DIVISION

Arbroath v Queen of the South
East Fife v Albion
Meadowbank v East Stirling
Montrose v Cowdenbeath
Stenhousemuir v Forfar
Stirling A. v Brechin
Stranraer v Berwick

Tuesday Dec. 28
DIVISION ONE

Coventry v Man. U.
Everton v Nott'm F.
Man. C. v West Brom
Norwich v Luton
Notts Co. v Stoke
Southampton v Arsenal
Sunderland v Liverpool
Spurs v Brighton

DIVISION TWO

Cambridge v C. Palace
Carlisle v Middlesbrough
Chelsea v Fulham
Grimsby v Newcastle
Leeds v Bolton
Leicester v Barnsley
Sheff. Wed. v Rotherham
Wolves v Burnley

DIVISION THREE

Bradford v Wrexham
Brentford v Gillingham
Chesterfield v Sheff. Utd.
Doncaster v Preston
Lincoln v Huddersfield
Newport v Oxford
Orient v Bournemouth
Plymouth v Cardiff
Reading v Portsmouth
Southend v Millwall

DIVISION FOUR

Blackpool v Tranmere
Bury v Hartlepool
Chester v Stockport
Colchester v Aldershot
Crewe v Peterborough
Darlington v Hull
Halifax v Scunthorpe
Hereford v Bristol C.
Mansfield v Northampton
Port Vale v Torquay
Rochdale v York
Swindon v Wimbledon

Wednesday Dec. 29
DIVISION ONE

Aston Villa v Ipswich
Swansea v Birmingham
Watford v West Ham

DIVISION TWO

Blackburn v Oldham
Charlton v Q.P.R.
Derby v Shrewsbury

DIVISION THREE

Bristol R. v Exeter
Wigan v Walsall

Here are the ten selected matches for this week, together with the predictions of a lucky 'Match' reader and his famous opponent. There's a space for you to fill in your predictions and a column for

the actual result. Award two points for every correct score and one point if the result is correct (i.e. home win, away win, draw), but the scoreline is wrong.

	Reader's forecast	Star's forecast	Your forecast	Result
Arsenal v Spurs	1-1	1-1		
Birmingham v Aston Villa	0-1	0-1		
Brighton v Southampton	0-1	2-1		
Liverpool v Man. City	3-0	2-0		
Luton v Watford	1-2	2-2		
Man. United v Sunderland	2-0	2-0		
Nott'm F. v Coventry	2-0	3-1		
Stoke v Everton	1-0	0-0		
West Brom v Notts Co.	1-1	1-1		
West Ham v Swansea	2-1	2-0		



Watford's Luther Blissett completes his hat-trick on his England debut against Luxembourg — how can Paul Mariner or Trevor Francis expect to displace him?

MY BATTLE

MY England future is now in the melting pot.

I was disappointed about being overlooked for the goal avalanche against Luxembourg and I'm under considerable pressure to retain my place in the squad.

Reputations will count for nothing when manager Bobby Robson selects his next squad for the home clash with Greece at the end of March.

There's going to be a real battle for places when you consider that players like Tony Morley, Alan Devonshire, Paul Mariner, Phil Thompson, Ray Wilkins and Trevor Francis were all missing against Luxembourg.

It seemed almost impossible a few months ago that some of those players wouldn't be guaranteed a place in the England team.

But after such an overwhelming victory against the part-timers from Luxembourg, it's going to be difficult for Mr Robson to make many changes.

Although Paul Mariner and Trevor Francis will probably be available for the Greece match, how can they displace Luther Blissett, who scored a hat-trick on his first full appearance, and Tony Woodcock, who has scored four goals in his last two and a bit matches?

It's a very healthy situation for the manager and it means that all the England players will be playing for their places at club level every week.

I discussed this situation with Glenn Hoddle after the Luxembourg game and he agreed that future England squads will probably be selected on current form.

From my point of view, it's a matter of me playing out of my skin for Arsenal in the hope of retaining my place in the squad.

When Alan Devonshire pulled out of the squad through injury, I thought there was a chance that I would play in order to give the England midfield some width on the left.

In the team discussions, Mr Robson agreed that the England midfield was rather lop-sided but, as he pointed out to me, how could he make changes after such a fine display in Greece from youngsters like Gary Mabbutt and Sammy Lee?

In fairness to them, he had to keep faith and I could see his reasoning.

So it was frustrating to sit in the stands and watch the demolition of a Luxembourg side that offered little resistance.

It was a tremendous result. Everyone expected us to win but no-one could have imagined such a scoreline.

In many ways, the match was worth three points to us in the end, two for a win and one for the number of goals.

I had a feeling that the lads would have been satisfied with three or four goals in the knowledge that Luxembourg had only narrowly lost to Denmark and Greece in their opening two matches.

FOR AN ENGLAND PLACE

But they were such a poor side that it was a 'no contest'.

I know that England probably did more than could have been expected in scoring nine goals, but Luxembourg just didn't want to play at all.

Even when they were 6-0 down, they were content to pass the ball around their own penalty area. At that stage, you would have thought they might have given it a go with nothing to lose.

It's important that the fans don't go overboard with this result. The yardstick for England is when they can draw with or defeat the West Germanys and Italys of this world.

When you achieve that kind of success, it's then you have proof that you are a world power.

We've got plenty of difficult games to come in our qualifying group before we can talk in terms of reaching the European Championship Finals.

I must admit it looks good for us at the moment with five points from our first three matches and, if we can beat the Greeks at Wembley, then we could have one foot in France where the 1984 Finals will be played.

But we shouldn't get too carried away with thoughts of France. Remember, our hopes of a place in the World Cup Finals were almost wrecked by defeats in Norway and Switzerland, who we were expected to beat.

On the club front, Arsenal face a testing time over the holiday period including a home clash with North London rivals Tottenham and a visit to League Champions Liverpool.

There is a lot of rivalry among the fans on 'derby' day but I don't think there is any hatred among the players.

In fact, Tottenham's Glenn Hoddle is one of my best pals, although it's possible there might be a few Spurs players who don't love us too much.

It's obviously going to be a tight, uncharitable game despite it being Christmas, but I hope it will be an exciting match for the 50,000 fans.

The visit to Southampton the following day won't be comfortable either. You always expect a hard game at The Dell and you have to make certain your attitude is right on the day to battle for everything, particularly in the opening half an hour.

We have already beaten Swansea at the Vetch Field and should be expected to complete the double on New Year's Day, but I remember they toppled us last season at Highbury, so we've got to be on our mettle.

What can one say about a visit to Liverpool? They are the yardstick for every team in the First Division.

I keep saying that we are in a false position and deserve to be in the top six, well, our game against the Champions provides us with the ideal opportunity to prove it.

● Graham Rix was talking to Melvyn Beck.

THE GRAHAM RIX COLUMN



WINNER WITH *Match*

BE A

TREE WORD



- 1 This team plays in the Italian League.
- 2 Finney's first name at Cambridge.
- 3 Former Man. United player now at Chester.
- 4 Christian name of Cardiff manager.
- 5 This Cohen was at Liverpool.
- 6 Q.P.R. scorer in last season's FA Cup Final.
- 7 Reading's ground is ... Park.
- 8 There's one at Everton and Luton.
- 9 This fish might be found at Grimsby.
- 10 Fourth Division club.



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It's the ideal book for the budding stars of tomorrow. Let's face it, you wouldn't go far wrong if you mastered just some of Pele's brilliance.

So, just answer the questions, write them on the entry form, along with your name, age and address, and send it off to:

Pele Competition, Match Weekly, 14 Holkham Road, Orton Southgate,

Peterborough PE2 0UF.

The sender of the first 12 correct entries pulled out of the Match Weekly Christmas stocking will be the winners.

Entries close on Friday, January 6, and the results will be announced in our January 21 issue.

Here are the questions:

- 1 Which club did Pele play for in Brazil? Santos, Palmeiras or Sao Paulo?
- 2 How many World Cup winners' medals did he collect? One, two or three?
- 3 He scored twice in his first World Cup Final. Who were the opponents? Sweden, Norway or Denmark?
- 4 In what year was his last appearance in a World Cup Final. Was it 1966, 1970 or 1974?
- 5 What World Cup record, formerly held by Pele, did Northern Ireland's Norman Whiteside break this year?
- 6 Which American club did Pele play for after leaving Brazil?

Entry Form

1..... 2.....
3..... 4.....
5..... 6.....

Name

Address

Age.....

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SPOT THE SANTA!

CAN you identify the three First Division players behind the Father Christmas beards.



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Just imagine wearing the new-style Tottenham jersey autographed by England's Glenn Hoddle!

Or having a Liverpool jersey signed by Scotland skipper Graeme Souness as the showpiece of your soccer souvenir collection!

Scottish fans might prefer the Aberdeen shirt signed by Scotland ace Gordon Strachan, or what about the Manchester United top inscribed by England forward Steve Coppel?

Yes, we've got four replica team jerseys signed by Match Weekly columnists to give away as prizes in a FREE, easy-to-enter competition.

They are super prizes from your super Match Weekly at this super time of the year!

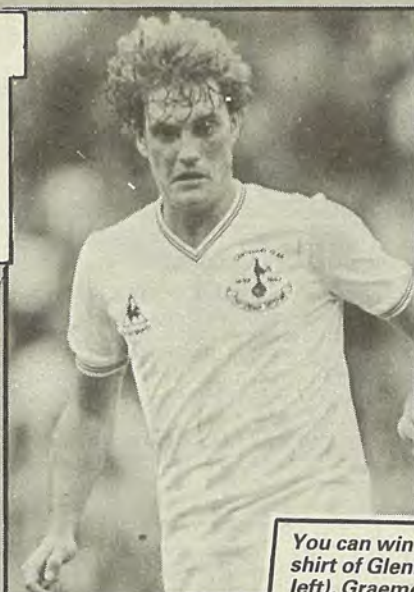
And it's so easy to win one. All you have to do is to take a careful look at the two cartoons. They may look identical at first glance, but there are ten deliberate differences.

Circle the differences with a pen on cartoon B, fill in the entry form, stating your name and address and which of the four shirts you would prefer, and send it off to:

Soccer Jerseys Competition, Match Weekly, 14 Holkham Road, Orton Southgate, Peterborough PE2 0UF.

The entries will be sorted into four different piles — depending on the choice of shirt — and the first correct entry pulled from each pile will be the winner.

Entries must reach us by Friday, January 6, and the results will be announced in our January 21 issue. Good luck!



You can win the signed shirt of Glenn Hoddle (top left), Graeme Souness (top right), Gordon Strachan (below left) or Steve Coppel (below right).

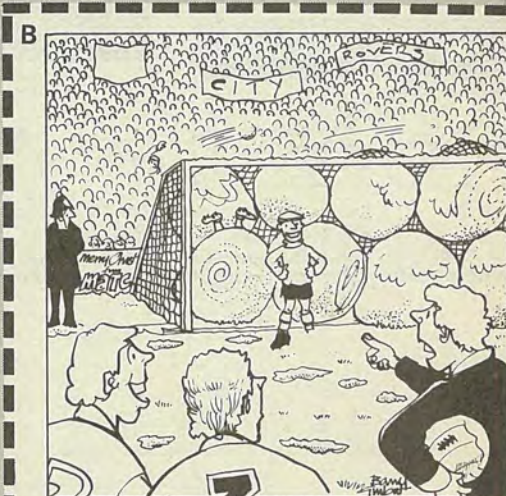
RIDDLE TIME

I WAS born in Aberdeen and made my League debut for Aston Villa in 1973. I won a League Cup winners' medal with Aston Villa in 1975 before moving across the Midlands to another First Division club.

I made 160 successive League appearances in one spell for them before eventually moving north to one of the First Division giants where I collected an FA Cup runners-up medal.

Don't miss next week's 'Match' for the identity of our mystery star.

● The answer to last week's 'Riddle Time' was Bolton player-manager John McGovern.



Name

Address.....

Shirt choice

SOLUTIONS

SPOT THE SANTA: A Coventry's Paul Dyson; B Luton skipper Brian Horton; C Arsenal goalkeeper George Wood.

TREE-WORD: 1 Como; 2 Tom; 3 Sloan; 4 Len; 5 Avi; 6 Fenwick; 7 Elm; 8 Walsh; 9 cod; 10 Wimbledon.

PROGRAMME

FREE PROGRAMMES

TOKEN

2

The introduction of 'Programme Parade' has proved a real winner with you, our readers, and there will be lots more prizes and FREE programmes in the New Year.

**COLLECT A
FREE SET
— SECOND
TOKEN!**

And if you are looking to buy certain programmes for your collection, then keep an eye on Classified Corner — that's where you are most likely to find the programmes you are looking for.

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wish all at Liverpool Football Club, supporters club, and members and friends the compliments of the season.

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All you have to do to stand a chance of winning one of these super sets of

WIN THIS SUPER TESTIMONIAL TRIO

programmes is to answer two simple questions.

Write your answers on the form provided, fill in your name and address, and send it off to: Programme

Competition, Match Weekly, 14 Holkham Road, Orton Southgate, Peterborough PE2 0UF.

The first five correct entries pulled out of the 'Match Weekly' postbag will receive the prize.

Entries must reach us by Friday, January 6, and the results will be announced in our January 21 issue.

Answer the questions with a simple 'yes' or 'no':

**1 Did Barry Daines keep goal for Tottenham in the 1981 FA Cup Final against Man. City?
2 Did Paul Madeley play for England?**

Entry form

1.....

2.....

Name.....

Address.....

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Barry Daines



SWOPS

OFFER: England v Norway (World Cup qualifying match), 1981 FA Cup Final replay (Man. City v Tottenham), 1980 Everton v Man. City.

WANTS: Any Liverpool programmes. Gordon Woodward, Trenevej 24, Dybbøl, 6400 Sønderborg, Denmark.

OFFER: Various League and International programmes from the sixties, seventies and eighties.
WANTS: Any non-League v League programmes in the FA Cup. Dave Baker, 7 Beaufort Road, Gloucester.

REVIEW SPOT

THE Norwich City programme is a colourful and well presented publication but is slightly expensive at 40p for twenty pages.

We looked at the programme for the Milk Cup replay with Sunderland, and found plenty of behind-the-scenes information from Carrow Road.

There was an interesting piece about the groundsman and his son, who keep the pitch ship-shape, and an action picture page on some of the young Norwich players of tomorrow.

STAR RATING GUIDE:
**** Superb; *** Good;
** Satisfactory; * Poor.
How the Norwich programme fared: Content *** Pictures *** Colour *** Information **** Entertainment *** Value for money ***





MATCH READERS MEET GLENN

WHAT a marvellous early Christmas treat for Match Weekly readers Diane Peel and Christopher Jeggo... dinner with England and Tottenham star Glenn Hoddle.

It was a 'day in a lifetime' experience for the youngsters as they dined with the England favourite in Tottenham's Chanticleer Restaurant by courtesy of Match Weekly.

Fourteen-year-old Christopher, from Halstead, Essex, was there to receive his award from Glenn as the Match Weekly 'Mastermind of Soccer' for 1982... a super video cassette recorder.

Diane, 15, from Castleford, Yorkshire, presented Glenn with the Match Weekly 'Man of the Year' award for 1982.

She was the lucky reader who had her name pulled out of the hat as one of the hundreds who voted for Glenn in the Match Weekly poll.



Top left: Fourteen-year-old Christopher Jeggo, from Halstead, Essex, the Match Weekly 'Mastermind of Soccer' for 1982, receives his certificate from Glenn.

Top right: Celebration time in Tottenham's Chanticleer Restaurant. Glenn Hoddle holds court with Match Weekly readers Diane Peel and her mother Olive and Christopher Jeggo with his father Roy, flanking Glenn are Match Weekly publicity



manager Ian Templeton and competitions secretary Pat Trim.

Above left: Cheers to lucky Match Weekly readers Diane Peel and Christopher Jeggo from Glenn during their slap-up meal.

Above right: Glenn receives Match Weekly's 'Man of the Year' award from Diane Peel... plus a fluffy teddy bear for Glenn and his wife Anne's forthcoming baby.



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CURRAN FINDS DIVISION ONE A DODDLE

HAVE boots, will travel crowd-pleaser Terry Curran talks about the latest chapter in his colourful story . . . as only he can!



FLAMBOYANT Terry Curran is typically cocky when he talks about his return to the First Division with Merseyside giants Everton . . .

"I haven't had any problems adjusting to life in the top flight. The only people with problems have been the defenders marking me!" he declares.

The mercurial winger joined the eighth League club of his varied career when he signed for Howard Kendall on a month's loan from Third Division Sheffield United.

Terry made his debut in the 0-0 draw against Birmingham and then starred in Everton's shock 2-0 win over Ipswich at Portman Road.

"I find it easier in the First Division. A player of my ability gets more time on the ball. In the Third Division it's like playing tennis because the ball is always in the air," he told 'Match'.

"I've never doubted my ability to play at the highest level. I could have been in the First Division all my life, but it isn't important to me.

"I just love playing football and I'll go anywhere my skills are appreciated," says Terry, who made just 14 League appearances for Sheffield United before his surprise move to Goodison Park.

"When my contract with Sheffield Wednesday expired at the end of last season I could have joined three First Division clubs. I chose United because I liked their style."

Terry admits that the loan spell at Goodison Park — an exchange deal with midfielder Trevor Ross — came as a complete surprise. He says: "I was very happy at Bramall Lane and even though the results hadn't been going well I was pleased with my form.

"But every time manager Ian Porterfield tries to buy a player, my name crops up as part of an exchange deal.

"The club are in debt and need money. They've got four strikers — myself, Alan Young, Keith Edwards and Colin Morris on the books, but Ian can only play three at any one time. He could be persuaded to let one go."

Terry's loan period ends early next month but he says: "Even though I'm thoroughly enjoying life in the First Division with Everton, I won't be too disappointed if the move isn't made permanent.

"Sheffield United are one of the biggest clubs in the country. They are equal to Liverpool and Everton in stature so I wouldn't regard going back there as a backward step.

"But I must admit I've been really impressed with the facilities at Everton. They are quite superb.

"Everything is run on such a professional basis that it makes you want to play for them."

Terry's arrival at Everton signalled the end of a dismal run of results which had seen 'The Toffeemen' slide down the table after going five League games without a win.

"There's no shortage of ability at Goodison Park, but I feel the players lacked confidence. They didn't believe in themselves."

Terry is sure that the victory over Ipswich has done wonders for confidence. He says: "We played them off the park.

"Everyone has been saying that we played a below-par Ipswich. I don't believe it. All their big names were in the side. The truth is that we stopped them playing and made them look mediocre."

Terry has earned a reputation for being 'too hot to handle' during a career that has seen

service with Doncaster, Nottingham Forest, Bury, Derby, Southampton, both Sheffield clubs and now Everton.

But he says: "I'm no bad boy. The reason I've moved around so often is that other managers have wanted to buy me. I've always been in demand.

"I've always been good at training and have never had a day off," says Terry, who played in Southampton's League Cup Final defeat at the hands of Forest at Wembley in 1979.

"I believe that I've done quite well for all the clubs I've played for. The only time I've ever lost my place is when things have started to go wrong for the team.

"Managers then demand battlers and they don't think I'm that sort of player. I can't understand that attitude because I can fight as hard as the next player."

When 27-year-old Terry signed a four year contract at Bramall Lane in the close season, hopes were high that United would make a challenge for the Third Division title.

But it hasn't worked out that way and United have struggled to establish themselves after being promoted champions of Division Four.

"I'm not surprised that we've had a tough baptism. I knew when I joined United that they faced a difficult task.

"After storming to the Fourth Division Championship last season a lot of the players were still on cloud nine when the new campaign began.

"They've had to come down to earth the hard way," says Terry, who joined United in a £100,000 deal.

"With the influx of new players the side just haven't been playing as a team this season. I'm sure it will come right in the end."

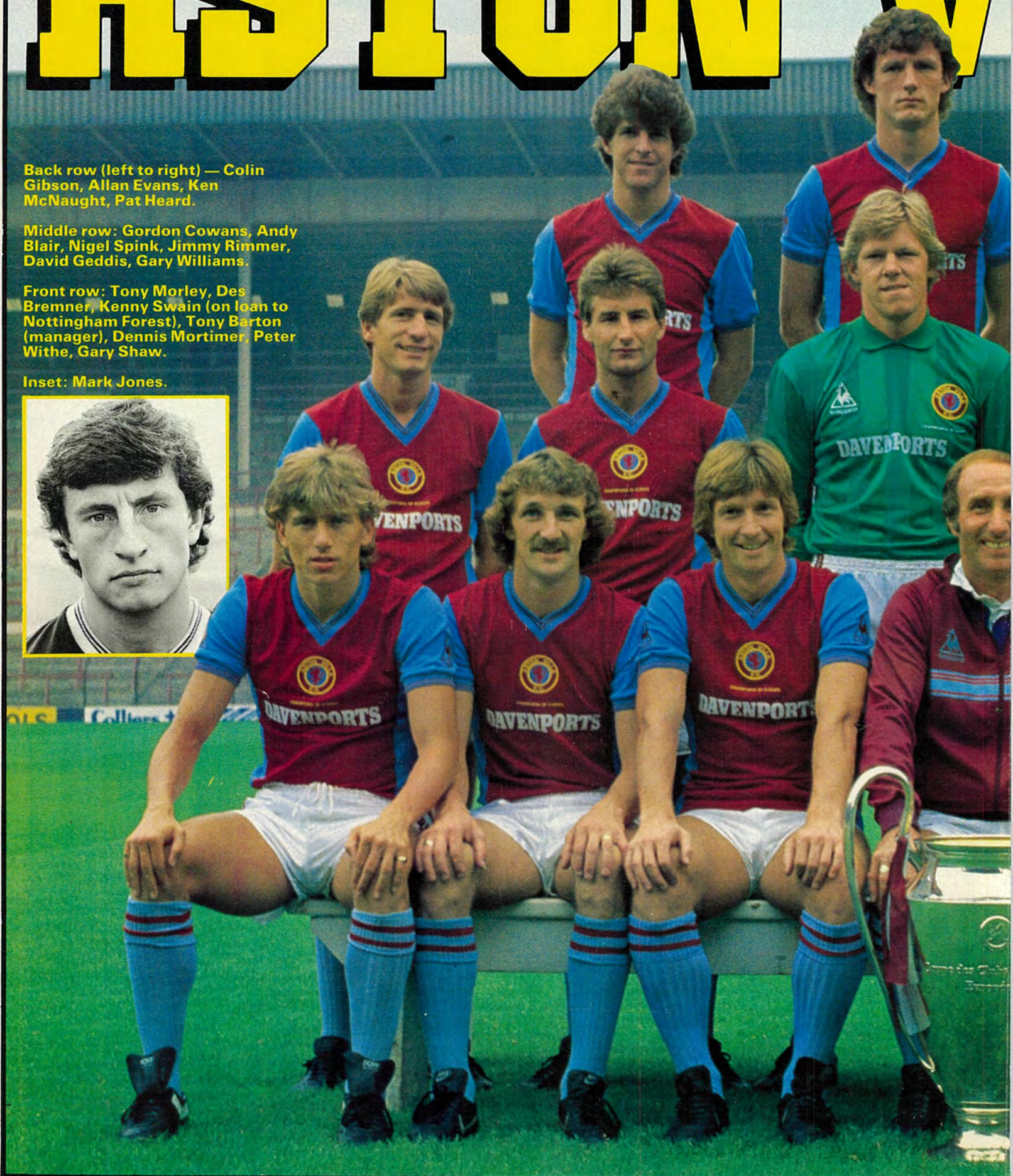
ASTON V

Back row (left to right) — Colin Gibson, Allan Evans, Ken McNaught, Pat Heard.

Middle row: Gordon Cowans, Andy Blair, Nigel Spink, Jimmy Rimmer, David Geddis, Gary Williams.

Front row: Tony Morley, Des Bremner, Kenny Swain (on loan to Nottingham Forest), Tony Barton (manager), Dennis Mortimer, Peter Withe, Gary Shaw.

Inset: Mark Jones.



ILLA

*European
Cup
holders*



CHRISTMAS CRACKER!

THERE must be better ways to celebrate Christmas than facing Liverpool at Anfield!

But that's where Manchester City will be on the first day of the hectic holiday programme, so my Christmas request to Santa is obvious ... three points.

That may not seem such an outrageous wish even though no team is expected to win at Liverpool these days.

City did achieve what is now termed the 'impossible' on Boxing Day last year ... a 3-1 victory and, on the following day, went top of the table after beating Wolves at Maine Road.

Now, the roles are reversed. Liverpool were then mid-table and that defeat at the hands of City set them on the way to the title.

After that game, they lost only two of the remaining 25.

This time we go there in the mid-table area and, if we go down, I hope it will be the start of an incredible run for us.

I once came within a whisker of winning at Liverpool when I was playing with West Brom.

I sent in a looping header over Ray Clemence to put us in front with just ten minutes left when the game seemed like petering out into a goalless stalemate.

But that goal only ignited Liverpool into frenetic action and, after equalising, they went close to winning the match.

In the dressing rooms afterwards, the Albion lads moaned at me for scoring because that had put pressure on them in the last ten minutes!

When I went to Anfield with West Ham last season, we were slaughtered 3-0 in a match that could easily have finished 9-0, such was Liverpool's command.

I know it seems simple, but Liverpool have this ability to pass accurately from one red shirt to another and, with so many quality players in the side, they are an awesome sight, particularly at Anfield.

The City lads would be first to admit that they caught Liverpool on an off-day last season.

It was in the middle of the 'big freeze' and City, with undersoil heating at Maine Road, were able to keep playing and that obviously helped.

No doubt, however, we shall continue our attacking policy at Anfield because if you sit back, then you are asking to be overwhelmed by the 'red army'.

The following afternoon we make our only holiday appearance at Maine Road against one of my former clubs West Brom.

They are a very solid side and will be difficult to break down.

Albion have some proven players and no doubt manager Ron Wylie, whom I worked with in my Coventry days, is enjoying working with them.

With three of our four holiday matches away from home, we must look for three points from this game.

Our inability at the moment to pick up goods on our travels is placing more pressure on us at home where it has become a near necessity to win.

It's possible that away from home we are

falling victims of our desire to play attacking football, but I hope that manager John Bond doesn't abandon this policy.

I think the Luton fans would agree that we gave good value for money at Kenilworth Road, despite losing 3-1.

In the end, I thought we were unlucky to go home empty-handed and manager John Bond thought so too.

When we play below par, he lets us know in no uncertain terms, both in the dressing room and in print, but on this occasion he wasn't at all critical of our performance.

And the game also marked the end of my lean goalscoring run that had stretched to nine matches when I poked in a second half equaliser.

It was a simple tap-in job, but I can tell you I

THE DAVID CROSS COLUMN

The Manchester City striker takes a festive look forward to the hectic holiday programme. Don't miss his exclusive column — with behind the scenes news from Maine Road — every fortnight.



was pretty relieved when it went in.

When you go so long without scoring you began to get self-doubts about your ability to score. That goal has given me a tremendous lift.

Returning to our holiday matches, we face Birmingham and Watford away over the New Year weekend.

Birmingham came in for some critical comments after a goalless draw at Maine Road recently.

But one couldn't blame them for playing to their strengths. A point for them was priceless.

Manager Ron Saunders, who was my old boss at Norwich, is a firm believer in having a strong defence before anything else, and he's obviously intent on achieving that at St Andrew's.

We might find them more vulnerable when the onus is on them to attack us.

Watford are not going to be any joyride, either. We grabbed an unexpected win over them earlier in the season after losing goalkeeper Joe Corrigan early on with a shoulder injury.

They were a bit disappointing on that occasion, but they will be bombarding us with their long balls at Vicarage Road where they pressure teams into errors.

All in all, it's a testing four-match programme in the space of seven days and City will be more than satisfied to come out of it with six points.

And, as we enter the New Year, I'm hoping we can embark on a good run to boost our chances of qualifying for Europe.

I've only been in Europe once, with West Ham, and it was a great experience so I'm looking forward to another chance.

With Christmas Day falling at the weekend, it means that for the first time in my professional career, I can go out for a drink with my friends on Christmas Eve because we haven't a game until the Monday.

And with no game on the day following Christmas Day, I can spend the day at home with the family.

As for the diet, I don't have to worry because I don't have any weight problems, unlike some players who put on half a stone by simply looking at a meat pie!

Even so, I don't think the fans would begrudge us an extra portion of Christmas pud with four games in seven days ahead of us!

● David Cross was talking to Melvyn Beck.





Soccer Mad?

"A PGL Soccer holiday will score with you"

says Ray Wilkins, England Captain.

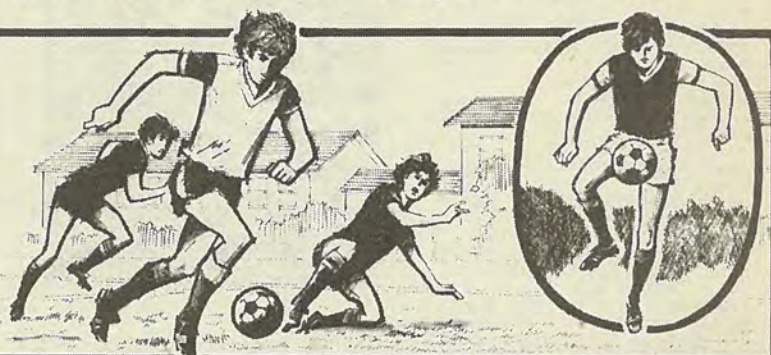
"If you fancy yourself as England Captain, I reckon there's no better place to start"

Ray Wilkins

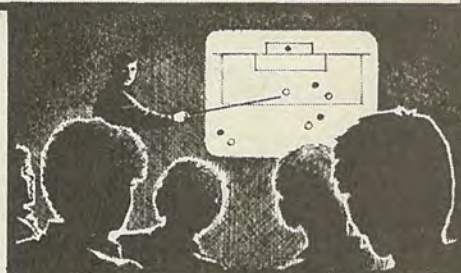


PGL run these soccer holidays for kids aged 8-21 at centres in the UK and Holland. You get grouped for coaching and training depending on your age and ability.

You get a good grounding in the basic skills – dribbling, tackling, ball control, teamwork.



Then you put into practice what you've learned in full matches and 5-a-side games – outside and in the gym. That's always great fun!



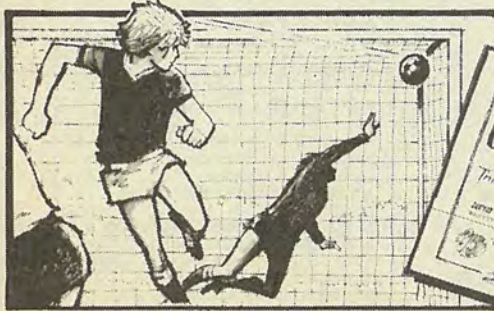
In the evening there's lots to do, including talks and film shows – you learn more about the great soccer names and games.



And then you actually **meet** the stars. You talk to famous players, about their soccer careers and their special techniques and see them in action!



The holiday also includes a visit to a major league ground – a rare chance to see behind the scenes of first-class soccer.



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This year there's a Re-bookers Course for more advanced players and there's Soccerplus – that includes cricket and tennis, for the all round sportsman. There's even a special course for girls.

Send for the brochure now – I reckon you'll get a real kick out of it!

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24 hr ansafone

MATCHFACTS MATCHFACTS

Sunday, Dec. 12

World Club Championship

ASTON VILLA (0) 0
PENAROL (Uruguay) (1) 2 (Concalves 27, Silva 67)
Att: 62,000 (In Tokyo)

Tuesday, Dec. 14

FA Cup, Second Round, Replay

BRENTFORD (0) 1 (Roberts 47)
SWINDON (0) 3 (Rowland 60, Pritchard 102, Batty 119)
After Extra Time
Att: 7,383

Brentford: Roche 6, Rowe 6, Wilkins 5, Booker 6, Whitehead 7, Hurlock 5.
*KAMARA 8, Joseph 7, Mahoney 6 (sub. Bowen 6), Bowles 6, Roberts 7.
Swindon: Allan 7, Bailey 7, Baddeley 5, Emmanuel 7, Lewis 7, Graham 6, Pritchard 7.
*BATTY 9, Rideout 8, Rowland 7, Barnard 4 (sub. Hughes 7).
Referee: J. E. Martin (Alton)
Match Rating: ★★★★★
Sendings Off: Hurlock (Brentford), Baddeley (Swindon)

NORTHAMPTON (0) 3 (Belfon 70, 83, Massey 88)
GILLINGHAM (1) 2 (Weatherly 5, 85)
Att: 4,290

Northampton: Freeman 6, Brady 6 (sub. Belfon 8), Phillips 7, Gage 8, Burrows 8, Coffill 7, Saxby 6, Buchanan 8, Muir 6, Denyer 7, *MASSEY 9.
Gillingham: Sutton 7, Sharpe 6, Adams 7, Shaw 6, Sinton 6, Tydeman 6, Powell 6 (sub. Cascarino 6), Johnson 6, Price 5, Grewcock 5.
*WEATHERLY 8.
Referee: J. A. Moules (Ongar)
Match Rating: ★★★★★

SHEFFIELD UNITED (2) 5 (Young 38, 41, 47, Morris 50, Edwards 85)
BOSTON (1) 1 (Henderson, og 34)
Att: 11,045

Sheff Utd: Waugh 6, Henderson 6, Kenworthy 7, McHale 7, MacPhail 6, Houston 6, Morris 7, Trussion 7, Edwards 7, *YOUNG 8, Charles 6 (sub. Brazil 6).
Boston: Blackwell 6, Lyon 6, Mann 7, Tiler 7, *JONES 8, Allen 6, Casey 6, Cook 6 (sub. Cox 6), Lumby 7, Mallender 6, Gilbert 6.
Referee: I. J. Borrett (Suffolk)
Match Rating: ★★★★★

MATCH WINNERS

A £20 cheque goes to each of the following five winners in our December 4 'Club Shop' competition: Stephen Keen, of Hereford; S. Smith of Sheffield; David Andrews of Waltham Cross, Herts; Philip Bagley of Scunthorpe; and Ian Hynd of Rosyth, Fife, Scotland.

The following 15 winners in our December 4 'Spot the Difference' competition each receive a Mitre football. Nigel Abba of Carlisle; Dean Hall of Market Harborough; Richard Simpson of Cowbridge, South Glamorgan; Leighton Lawrence of Arbroath, Scotland; Neil Passmore of Swansea; David Biggart of Kilbirnie, Ayrshire; Paul Pearson of Whitby, N. Yorks; David Scott-Brown of Barnstaple, Devon; Jonathan Fenton of Chesterfield; Simon Lofthouse of Luton; Paul Hills of Chatham, Kent; Lee Atherton of Altrincham, Cheshire; Darren Hall of Basingstoke, Hants; Mark Wong of Oakham, Rutland; Derek Ricketts of Nechells, Birmingham.

A set of three League Cup programmes, including two Finals, goes to each of the winners in our December 4 'Programme Parade' competition.

They are: Simeon Davey of Truro, Cornwall; Steve Anderson of Burnley; Mark Lowdon of Chopwell, Tyne and Wear; David Jackson of Littleover, Derby; A. Spencer of Hall Green, Birmingham.

PLAYER RATINGS

- 10 Out of this world
- 9 Outstanding
- 8 Excellent
- 7 Good
- 6 Adequate
- 5 Off form
- 4 Poor

MATCH RATINGS

- ★★★★★ A classic
- ★★★★ Good value
- ★★★ Satisfactory
- ★★ Dull
- ★ A waste of money

TRANMERE (0) 2 (Aspinall 68, Griffiths 84)
TELFORD (1) 1 (Mather 44)
Att: 4,087

Tranmere: Endersby 6, Mungall 6, Burgess 7, Mooney 6, *HAMILTON 9, Williams 8, Ferguson 6 (sub. Powell 7), Aspinall 7, Kerr 6, Brown 6, Griffiths 7.
Telford: Charlton 7, Lewis 6, Eaton 6, Mayman 7, *WALKER 8, Barnett 6 (sub. Gardner), Joseph 6, Neale 6, Mather 7, Hogan 6, Alcock 7.
Referee: F. Roberts (Prestatyn)
Match Rating: ★★★★★
Sending Off: Joseph (Telford)

YORK (1) 4 (Hood 38, Pollard 76, Byrne 84, Ford 86)
HARTLEPOOL (0) 0
Att: 4,206

York: Jones 7, Evans 7, Sbragia 7, Smith 7, Hood 7, Ford 7, Crosby 7, Walwyn 7, Byrne 7, *POLLARD 8.
Hartlepool: Watson 6, Smith 6, Stimpson 6 (sub. Johnson), Hogan 7, Barker 7, *LINIGHAN 8, Bird 7, Dobson 7, Linacre 6, Brown 6, Lawrence 6.
Referee: K. Walmsley (Blackpool)
Match Rating: ★★★★★

UEFA Under-21 Championship

YUGOSLAVIA (0) 2 (Mance 2)
WALES (0) 0
Att: 7,000 (in Niksic)

BELGIUM (1) 1 (Goossens)
SCOTLAND (1) 2 (McGarvey, Nicholas)
Att: 1,500 (in Ghent)

Wednesday, Dec. 15

FA Cup, Second Round, Replay

BRADFORD (2) 3 (Campbell 31, Lester 40, McNiven 68)
MANSFIELD (1) 2 (Dungworth 21, Bell 50)
Att: 3,081

Bradford: McManus 7, Podd 6, Chapman 6, *LESTER 8, Cooke 7, Jackson 6, Ellis 6, Gray 6, Campbell 6, McNiven 6, Mellox 6.
Mansfield: *ARNOLD 8, Bird 6, Kennedy 6, Bell 6, Ayre 7, Calderwood 6, Matthews 7, Hutchinson 6, Dungworth 6, Caldwell 7, Nicholson 6.
Referee: N. Midgley (Salford)
Match Rating: ★★★★★

European Championship Group One

BELGIUM (2) 3 (Vandenbergh 24, Van Der Elst 38, 63)
SCOTLAND (2) 2 (Dalglish 11, 34)
Att: 48,877 (in Brussels)
Belgium: Pfaff, Gerets, Dearden, Meeuws, Baecke, Varcauteren (sub. Verheyen), Van Der Elst, Vandersmissen, Vandenbergh (sub. De Schrijver), Coeck, Ceulemans.
Scotland: Leighton, McLeish, Gray, Aitken, Hansen, Narey, Strachan (sub. Sturrock), Souness, Archibald, Bett (sub. Burns), Dalglish.

Group 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Belgium	2	2	0	0	6	2	4
SCOTLAND	3	1	0	2	4	5	2
Switzerland	2	1	0	1	2	3	2
East Germany	1	0	0	1	0	2	0

Group Three

ENGLAND (4) 9 (Bossi, og 21, Coppell 25, Woodcock 37, Blissett 44, 62, 86, Chamberlain 73, Hoddle 87, Neal 89)
LUXEMBOURG (0) 0
Att: 35,000
England: Clemence, Neal, Martin, Butcher, Sansom, Lee, Mabbutt (sub. Hoddle), Robson, Coppell (sub. Chamberlain), Woodcock, Blissett.
Luxembourg: Moes, Girres, Meunier, Bossi, Rohmann, Clemens, Hellers, Weis, Dresch, Reiter, Di Domenico (sub. Nurenberg).

Group 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
ENGLAND	3	2	1	0	14	2	5
Denmark	2	1	1	0	4	3	3
Greece	2	1	0	1	2	3	2
Luxembourg	3	0	0	3	1	13	0
Hungary	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Group Four

YUGOSLAVIA (3) 4 (Cvetovic 13, Zikovic 17, Krancjar 37, Jesic 65)
WALES (2) 4 (Flynn 6, Rush 39, Jones 69, James, R 72)
Att: 20,000 (in Titograd)
Yugoslavia: Svljar, Stokovic, Cvetkovic, Trifunovic, Ferhatovic (sub. Djurovski), Hadzibegic, Deveric (sub. Jesic), Nicolic, Krancjar, Gudelj, Zikovic.
Wales: Davies, Jones, Price, Jackett, Ratcliffe, Flynn, Nicholas (sub. Vaughan), Mahoney, Thomas (sub. Charles), James R, Rush.

Group 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
WALES	2	1	1	0	5	4	3
Norway	3	1	1	1	5	4	3
Yugoslavia	3	1	1	1	6	7	3
Bulgaria	2	0	1	1	2	3	1

Group Six

ALBANIA (0) 0
NORTHERN IRELAND (0) 0
Att: 25,000 (in Tirana)
Albania: Musta, Bino, Ahmetaj, Targaj, Ruci, Vukatana, Ragami, Balljini, Luci, Kola, Minga.
N. Ireland: Platt, Nicholl J, McClelland, O'Neill J, Donaghy, O'Neill M, McIlroy, Brotherton, Hamilton, Whiteside, Stewart.

Group 6

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Austria	3	3	0	0	11	0	6
N. IRELAND	3	1	1	1	1	2	3
Turkey	2	1	0	1	1	4	2
Albania	3	0	1	2	0	6	1
W. Germany	1	0	0	1	0	1	0

Friday, Dec. 17

Division Two

CAMBRIDGE (1) 2 (Fallon 39, Mayo 58)
MIDDLESBROUGH (0) 0
Att: 2,533

Cambridge: Webster 6, Donaldson 6, Murray 6, Turner 6, Fallon 7, *O'NEILL 8, Cartwright 6, Spriggs 6, Reilly 6, Mayo 7, Fisher 6.
Middlesbrough: Platt 6, Ward 6, Bolton 6 (sub. Cochrane 6), Nattrass 6, Baxter 6, Otto 6, *WOOD 7, Sugrue 6, Kennedy 6, Hankin 6, Bell 6.
Referee: K. G. Salmon (Barnet)
Match Rating: ★★

Division Three

ORIENT (1) 2 (Peach, pen 10, Kitchen 85)
PRESTON (1) 1 (Coleman 33)
Att: 1,668
Orient: Day 7, Roffey 6, Peach 7, Foster 6, Cunningham 6, Cornwell 5, *OSGOOD 8, Godfrey 6, Houchen 6, Sussex 7, Kitchen 7.
Preston: Litchfield 7, Westwell 6, McAteer 6, O'Riordan 7, Coleman 6, Gowing 6, Walsh 6, Sayer 6, Elliott 7, *NAUGHTON 8 (sub. Buckley 5), Houston 7.
Referee: D. H. Brazier (Northants)
Match Rating: ★★★★★

SOUTHEND (0) 1 (Mercer 74)
CARDIFF (1) 2 (Hatton 31, Gibbins 83)
Att: 3,476
Southend: Cawston 6, Stead 7, Yates 7, Hadley 7, Otulakowski 7, *CUSACK 8, Pountney 6, Phillips 6, Mercer 7, Pennyfather 6, Nelson 6.
Cardiff: Dibble 7, Jones 7, Bennett, G 8, Tong 7, Dwyer 6, Mullen 7, Bennett, D 8, *GIBBINS 9, Hatton 7, Hemmerman 7, Lewis 6.
Referee: T. C. Deakin (Bedford)
Match Rating: ★★★★★

Division Four

COLCHESTER (1) 3 (Allinson 24, 70, McDonough 51)
STOCKPORT (0) 0
Att: 1,625
Colchester: Walker 6, Cook 7, Ward 7, Longhorn 5, Packer 6, Hull 6, *ALLINSON 8, Osborne 9, McDonough 6, Bremner 5, Leslie 6.
Stockport: *LLOYD 7, Rutter 5, Sherlock 6, Emerson 6, Bowles 6, Thorpe 5, Smith 5, Phillips 6, Quinn 5, Lee 5 (sub. Wardrobe), Coyle 5.
Referee: A. Grey (Gt. Yarmouth)
Match Rating: ★★★★★

CREWE (0) 0
HULL (1) 3 (Marwood 31, 52, Mutrie 63)
Att: 1,404
Crewe: Smith 6, Salathiel 5, Bowers 6, Craven 7, Scott 5, Hart 7, *HASELGRAVE 8, Wright 6, Waller 6, Evans 6, Cliss 5.
Hull: Norman 6, Swann 6, Askew 7, Roberts D 6, Skipper 7, Booth 7, *MARWOOD 9, McClaren 7, Flounders 7, Mutrie 7, Roberts, G 7.
Referee: K. P. Barratt (Coventry)
Match Rating: ★★★★★

HALIFAX (0) 1 (Hamilton, og 82)
TRANMERE (1) 2 (Ferguson 16, 75)
Att: 912
Halifax: Smelt 7, Nobbs 5, Goodman 5, *EVANS 8, Smith 6, Hendrie 6, Ward 6, Spooner 5, Allatt 6, Staniforth 5 (sub. Nuttall 7), Wood 5.
Tranmere: Endersby 7, Mungall 7, Burgess 6, Mooney 7, Hamilton 7, Williams 7, *FERGUSON 8, Aspinall 7, Kerr 6, Brown 6, Griffiths 7.
Referee: G. Napthine (Loughborough)
Match Rating: ★★★★★

MANSFIELD (1) 2 (Dungworth 5, Caldwell 56)
TORQUAY (1) 1 (Gallagher 45)
Att: 1,293
Mansfield: Arnold 6, Bird 5, Kennedy 6, Bell 5, Ayre 7, Calderwood 6, Matthews 7, Hutchinson 5, Dungworth 6, *CALDWELL 8, Nicholson 5 (sub. Woodhead 5).
Torquay: Horn 6, Doyle 6, *WILSON 8, Brown 5 (sub. Young 5), Little 6, Bould 6, Grapes 6, O'Donnell 5, Bishop 5, Anderson 5, Gallagher 6.
Referee: N. Glover (Chorley)
Match Rating: ★★★★★

Cut out and keep

MATCH FACTS MATCH FACTS

Saturday, Dec. 18

Division One

ASTON VILLA (2) 2 (Shaw 33, Withe 35)
LIVERPOOL (3) 4 (Hodgson 5, Dalglish 9, Kennedy 27, Rush 88)
 Att: 34,568
Aston Villa: Rimmer 6, Jones 6, Williams 6, Evans 7, McNaught 6, Mortimer 7, Bremner 8, Shaw 7. ***WITHE 9**, Cowans 8, Walters 7
Liverpool: Grobbelaar 8, Neal 6, Kennedy 7, Lawrenson 7, Whelan 6, Hansen 7, Dalglish 7, Lee 6, Rush 8, Hodgson 7. ***SOUNESS 9**.
Referee: M. Scott (Nottingham)
Match Rating: ★★ ★

COVENTRY (1) 2 (Hateley 22, 49)
STOKE (0) 0
 Att: 10,065
Coventry: Sealey 7, Thomas 7, Roberts 7, Jacobs 7. ***DYSON 8**, Gillespie 7, Whittton 7, Francis 6 (sub. Butterworth 6), Hateley 7, Melrose 7, Hunt 5.
Stoke: Fox 7, Parkin 6, Hampton 6, Maskery 7, Watson 7, Berry 7, Magyire 6 (sub. Ursem 6), McIlroy 6, O'Callaghan 6, Thomas 6. ***CHAMBERLAIN 8**.
Referee: B. Stevens (Stonehouse)
Match Rating: ★★ ★

EVERTON (2) 5 (Bailey 14, Sheedy 40, Curran 73, Heath 74, 85)
LUTON (0) 0
 Att: 14,982
Everton: Arnold 6, Stevens 6, Bailey 6, Ratcliffe 7, Higgins 7, McMahon 7.
***CURRAN 8**, Heath 7, Johnson 7 (sub. Sharp 6), Richardson 6, Sheedy 7.
Luton: Findlay 4, Stephens 5, Money 5, Horton 6, Goodyear 6, Donaghy 6, Hill 5, Geddis 5, Walsh 6, Turner 5. ***MOSS 7**.
Referee: G. Peck (Shropshire)
Match Rating: ★★ ★

MANCHESTER CITY (1) 1 (Bond 44)
BRIGHTON (0) 1 (Ritchie 50)
 Att: 20,615
Man City: Corrigan 6, Ranson 6, McDonald 5, Bond 6, Power 5, Caton 7, Tueart 6, Reeves 5, Cross (sub. May 6). ***HARTFORD 8**, Bodak 6.
Brighton: Digweed 6, Ramsey 5, Nelson 5. ***GREALISH 8**, Foster 6, Stevens 6, Case 6, Ritchie 6, Robinson 6, Ward 7, Gating 6.
Referee: V. Callow (Solihull)
Match Rating: ★★ ★

NORWICH (0) 0
NOTTINGHAM FOREST (1) 1 (Hodge 1)
 Att: 14,151
Norwich: *WOODS 8, Haylock 6, Hareide 6, McGuire 7, Walford 6, Watson 7, Jack 6 (sub. Donowa 6), O'Neill 7, Deehan 6, Bertschin 6, Van Wyk 6.
Nott'm Forest: Sutton 7, Swain 7, Bowyer 7, Gunn 6, Young 7. ***WALSH 8**, Proctor 7, Wallace 7, Birtles 7, Hodge 7, Robertson 7.
Referee: D. Vickers (Essex)
Match Rating: ★★ ★

NOTTS COUNTY (0) 1 (Worthington 73)
WEST HAM (2) 2 (Dickens 6, Hunt, og 15)
 Att: 8,456
Notts County: Avramovic 6, Benjamin 6, Worthington 5, Hunt 5, Kilcline 6, Richards 7, Chiedoie 7. ***FASHANU 8**, Christie 6, Hooks 7, Mair 5 (sub. Clarke 6).
West Ham: *PARKES 9, Lampard 6, Brush 6, Orr 6, Gallagher 6, Dickens 8, Van Der Elst 8, Goddard 7, Clark 6, Allen 7, Pike 6.
Referee: J. B. Worrall (Warrington)
Match Rating: ★★ ★

SOUTHAMPTON (1) 4 (Wallace 12, Armstrong 59, Moran 71, Puckett 74)
WEST BROM (1) 1 (Regis 33)
 Att: 16,896
Southampton: Wells 7, Agboola 6, Mills 7, Williams 7. ***NICHOLL 8**, Wright 6, Holmes 6, Moran 6, Puckett 7, Armstrong 6, Wallace 7.
West Brom: Godden 6, Whitehead 5. ***STATHAM 7**, Zondervan 6, Wile 6, Robertson 6, Jol 5, Cross 5, Regis 6, Owen 6, Eastoe 5.
Referee: M. L. James (Horsham)
Match Rating: ★★ ★

SUNDERLAND (1) 3 (Rowell 10, 63, 77)
ARSENAL (0) 0
 Att: 11,753
Sunderland: Turner 7, Nicholl 7, Munro 8, Atkins 8, Chisholm 7. ***ELLIOTT 9**, Venison 8, Rowell 8, Worthington 7, Pickering 8, Cummins 7.

Arsenal: Jennings 7. ***HOLLINS 8**, Sansom 7, Talbot 6, O'Leary 6, Whyte 7, Davis 6 (sub. Chapman 6), Sunderland 6, Robson 6, Woodcock 6, Rix 6.
Referee: D. Richardson (Gt. Harwood)
Match Rating: ★★ ★

SWANSEA (0) 0
MANCHESTER UNITED (0) 0
 Att: 15,748
Swansea: Davies 6, Stanley 5, Hadziabdic 6, Robinson 6, Evans 6, Rajkovic 7, Curtis 6 (sub. James, L.), James, R. 7, Mahoney 6.
***CHARLES 8**, Latchford 6.
Man Utd: Bailey 7, Duxbury 6, Albiston 5, Moses 6, Moran 6, McQueen 7, Robson 7, Muhren 6, Stapleton 6, Whiteside 6.
***COPELL 8**.
Referee: T. G. Bune (Berkshire)
Match Rating: ★★ ★

TOTTENHAM (0) 2 (Mabbutt 69, 83)
BIRMINGHAM (0) 1 (Langan 85)
 Att: 20,546
Spurs: Clemence 7, Hughton 6, Lacy 6, Roberts 6, Villa 6 (sub. Brooke 7).
***PERRYMAN 9**, Mabbutt 8, Hazard 7, Galvin 7, Huddle 7, Crooks 6.
Birmingham: Coton 7, Hagan 6, Van den Hauwe 6, Stevenson 7, Blake 7, Broadhurst 6.
***DILLON 8**, Harford 7, Ferguson 6 (sub. Handysides), Langan 7, Dennis 6.
Referee: L. F. Burden (Dorset)
Match Rating: ★★ ★

WATFORD (2) 2 (Jenkins 18, Taylor 28)
IPSWICH (0) 1 (Mariner 81)
 Att: 18,048
Watford: Sherwood 8, Rice 7, Rostron 7, Taylor 8, Sims 7, Bolton 7, Callaghan 7.
***BARNES 9**, Jenkins 8, Jackett 7, Johnson 8.
Ipswich: Cooper 7, Steggles 6 (sub. O'Callaghan 6), Putney 6, Thijssen 6, Osman 6, Butcher 6, Wark 7, McCall 6, Mariner 7.
***BRAZIL 8**, Gates 7.
Referee: M. L. Robinson (Sutton Coldfield)
Match Rating: ★★ ★

Division Two

BLACKBURN (0) 3 (Garner 49, Miller 63, Randell 84)
ROTHERHAM (0) 0
 Att: 6,333
Blackburn: Gennoe 6, Branagan 5, Rathbone 6. ***RANDELL 7**, Mail 6, Fazackerley 6, Miller 5, Hamilton 6, Bell 5, Garner 6, Brotherston 6.
Rotherham: Mountford 5, Forrest 5, Breckin 5, Henson 4, Hughes 5. ***GREEN 7**, Towner 5, Gow 5, Moore 4 (sub. Fern 5), Seaman 4, McBride 6.
Referee: D. Civil (Birmingham)
Match Rating: ★★ ★

CARLISLE (0) 3 (Shoulder 52, 77, Bannon 79)
FULHAM (1) 2 (Lewington, pen 30, O'Driscoll 61)
 Att: 4,859
Carlisle: Swinburne 6, Parker 6, Haigh 7, Ashurst 7, Rushbury 6, Houghton 6, Lee 6 (sub. Staniforth 6), Hornsby 7, Poskett 6, Bannon 7. ***SHOULDER 8**.
Fulham: Peyton 7, Hopkins 7, Lock 6, O'Driscoll 7, Brown 7, Gale 6, Davies 7, Wilson 7, Thomas 6. ***HOUGHTON 8**, Lewington 7.
Referee: N. Wilson (Morecambe)
Match Rating: ★★ ★

CHARLTON (2) 3 (Simonsen 32, Hales 44, 54)
BARNESLEY (1) 2 (Glavin 36, Cunningham 59)
 Att: 4,942
Charlton: Johns 7, Curtis 7, Aizlewood 7, McAllister 7, Gray 7, Berry 7, Simonsen 7, Harris 7. ***HALES 8**, Gritt 6, Robinson 6.
Barnsley: Pierce 6, Joyce 6, Chambers 6, Glavin 7, Banks 6, McCarthy 7, Souter 6, Parker 7, Ronson 7. ***CUNNINGHAM 8**, Birch 6.
Referee: D. Letts (Basingstoke)
Match Rating: ★★ ★
Sending Off: McCarthy (Barnsley)

CHELSEA (1) 2 (Deakin, og 34, Pates 55)
BOLTON (0) 1 (Henry 56)
 Att: 6,903
Chelsea: Francis 7, Jones 7, Hutchings 7, Chivers 6, Droy 7, Pates 6, Driver 6 (sub. Walker 6), Bumstead 5, Speedie 7, Mayes 7. ***RHOADES-BROWN 8**.
Bolton: *McDONAGH 8, Berry 5, Deakin 5, Henry 6, Jones 6, Doyle 7, Chandler 5, Whatmore 6, Foster 6, Hoggan 7, Thompson 6.
Referee: R. G. Milford (Bristol)
Match Rating: ★★ ★

DERBY (1) 1 (Richards 32)
CRYSTAL PALACE (1) 1 (Langley 41)
 Att: 13,207
Derby: Cherry 7, Barton 5, Buckley 5, Attley 5 (sub. Davison), Foster 5, Blades 6, Brolly 5, Gemmill 7, Richards 7. ***SWINDLEHURST 8**, Dalziel 6.
Crystal Palace: Fry 6, Gilbert 6, Murphy 8, Nebbeling 6, Cannon 7, Hinshelwood 6, Giles 6, Hughton 6, Jones 6, Langley 6. ***HILAIRE 9**.
Referee: D. Scott (Burnley)
Match Rating: ★★ ★

GRIMSBY (2) 3 (Cumming 7, Bonnyman 17, Drinkell 90)
BURNLEY (2) 2 (Laws, pen 37, Moore, K. og 45)
 Att: 5,448
Grimsby: Batch 7, Moore, D. 6, Crombie 7. ***WATERS 9**, Stone 6, Moore, K. 6, Ford 7, Whymark 6, Drinkell 7, Bonnyman 8, Cumming 6.
Burnley: Stevenson 6, Laws 6, Holt 6, Cassidy 6, Phelan 6, Flynn 8, Dobson 6. ***STEVEN 9**, Hamilton 6, Taylor 6, McGee 7.
Referee: I. Borrett (Suffolk)
Match Rating: ★★ ★

LEEDS (1) 1 (Hird 31)
SHREWSBURY (0) 1 (MacLaren, pen 83)
 Att: 8,741
Leeds: Lukic 6, Thomas 7, Gray, F. 7, Dickinson 6, Hart 7, Burns 7, Hird 6, Sheridan 7, Butterworth 6. ***McNAB 8**, Gavin 7.
Shrewsbury: *OGRIZOVIC 8, Williams 6, Leonard 7 (sub. Turner), Betts 6, Pearson 7, Griffin 7, Cross 6, MacLaren 7, Brown 6, McNally 6, Bates 7.
Referee: G. Tyson (Sunderland)
Match Rating: ★★ ★

LEICESTER (0) 2 (MacDonald 56, Smith 60)
OLDHAM (0) 1 (Wylde 84)
 Att: 8,125
Leicester: Wallington 6, Ramsey 7, Friar 6. ***MacDONALD 8**, May 7, O'Neill 6, Buchanan 6 (sub. Lynex), Lineker 6, Kelly 7, Smith 7, Wilson 6.
Oldham: Goram 7, Hoolickin 6, Ryan 6, Bowden 6. ***CLEMENTS 8**, Fletcher 7, McDonough 7, Atkinson 6, Heaton 6, Wylde 7, Palmer 6.
Referee: K. Cooper (Pontypridd)
Match Rating: ★★ ★

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (0) 1 (Megson 56)
NEWCASTLE (1) 1 (Varadi 36)
 Att: 16,310
Sheff Wed: Bolder 7, Sterland 7, Bailey 7, Smith 6, Lyons 7. ***SHELTON 8**, Megson 6, Taylor 6 (sub. Pearson), Bannister 7, McCulloch 5, Mirocevic 7.
Newcastle: Carr 7, Anderson 7 (sub. Carney 7), Wharton 6, McDonald 6, Clarke 7, Haddock 7, Gayle 7, McCreery 6. ***VARADI 8**, McDermott 6, Waddle 7.
Referee: T. J. Holbrook (Wolverhampton)
Match Rating: ★★ ★

WOLVES (0) 4 (Humphrey 52, Clarke 76, Palmer, pen 79, Dodd 89)
QPR (0) 0
 Att: 15,423
Wolves: Burridge 7, Humphrey 7, Palmer 5, Rudge 6, Pender 6, Dodd 5, Hibbit 6, Clarke 6, Gray 6, Eves 5. ***MATTHEWS 9**.
QPR: Hucker 5, Neill 6, Dawes 5, Roeder 6. ***HAZELL 8**, Fenwick 7, Micklewhite 6, Sealy 7, Allen 6, Stainrod 7, Gregory 6.
Referee: A. Robinson (Radcliffe)
Match Rating: ★★ ★

Division Three

BRADFORD v SHEFFIELD UNITED — Match Postponed
BRENTFORD (3) 4 (Bowles 8, Walker 36, Whitehead 43, Booker 89)
EXETER (0) 0
 Att: 5,296
Brentford: Roche 6, Rowe 6, Wilkins 7, Booker 7, Whitehead 8, Hurlock 7, Kamara 7. ***JOSEPH 9**, Johnson 7, Bowles 8, Walker 8.
Exeter: Bond 5, Rogers, M. 5, Viney 6, Harle 6, Marker 5, McEwan 5. ***NEVILLE 7**, Rogers, P. 6, Sparrow 6, Delve 6, Pullar 5.
Referee: K. W. Baker (Rugby)
Match Rating: ★★ ★

BRISTOL ROVERS (0) 4 (Williams, D. 60, Holloway 61, Williams, G. 62, Williams, B. 88)
WREXHAM (0) 0
 Att: 4,607

Bristol Rovers: Kite 6, Slatter 7, Williams, B. 6, Williams, G. 6, Parkin 7, McCaffery 7, Holloway 6. ***WILLIAMS, D. 8** (sub. Channon 6), Stephens 7, Withey 7, Barrett 7. ***Wrexham:** Niedzwiecki 7, Hunt 6, Hill 7, Savage 7, Cunningham 6, Baker 6 (sub. Edwards 6), Arkwright 7, Gregory 6, Keay 7, King 7. ***BUXTON 8**.
Referee: C. Downey (Hounslow)
Match Rating: ★★ ★

CHESTERFIELD (0) 0
PORTSMOUTH (0) 1 (Tait 46)
 Att: 2,440
Chesterfield: Gregory 6, Pollard 5, Partridge 5, Wilson 7, Green 6, Henson 6. ***PLUMMER 8**, Henderson 5, Walker 6, Kowalski 5, Windridge 6.
Portsmouth: Knight 7, McLaughlin 6, Sullivan 6 (sub. Ellis 6), Doyle 7, Howe 6, Rollings 7, Webb 6. ***TAIT 8**, Rafferty 7, Biley 7, Rogers 7.
Referee: R. Bridges (Deeside)
Match Rating: ★★ ★

DONCASTER (0) 2 (Mell 80, Snodin, G. 87)
MILLWALL (1) 1 (Chatterton 30)
 Att: 2,568
Doncaster: Peacock 6, Russell 7, Watson 7, Snodin, I. 6, Humphries 6, Wigginton 6, Mell 6, Owen 5, Austin 6, Snodin, G. 7. ***ROBERTSON 8**.
Millwall: Sansome 7, Stevens 6, Stride 7, Massey 6, Allardyce 7, Roberts 6, Hayes 6, Chatterton 6, Aylott 6. ***HORRIS 8**, West 6.
Referee: R. Guy (Kirby)
Match Rating: ★★ ★

LINCOLN (2) 9 (Hobson 33, 53, 74, Brignull, og 41, Cockerill 62, 80, Bell 64, 66, 84)
BOURNEMOUTH (0) 0
 Att: 3,597
Lincoln: Felgate 7, Carr 7, Neale 7. ***COCKERILL 9**, Peake 8, Thompson 7 (sub. Simmonite 6), Burke 8, Turner 7, Hobson 8, Bell 8, Shipley 8.
Bournemouth: *ALLEN 8, Heffernan 7, Sulley 6, Graham 6, Brignull 5, Impey 5, Carter 7 (sub. Munde 6), Nightingale 6, Morgan 7, Lee 7, Dawtry 6.
Referee: N. Ashley (Nantwich)
Match Rating: ★★ ★

NEWPORT (0) 1 (Vaughan 62)
WALSALL (0) 1 (Penn 73)
 Att: 3,572
Newport: Kendall 6, Jones 7, Relish 6, Bailey 7, Doyle 7, Stroud 6, Lowndes 7, Aldridge 6, Tynan 6. ***VAUGHAN 8**, Elsey 7 (sub. Moore).
Walsall: Green 6, Caswell 6, Mower 6, Beech 7, Hawker 6, Hart 7, Penn 7, Preece 6. ***SUMMERFIELD 8**, Buckley 6 (sub. Rees 6), Shakespeare 6.
Referee: L. Shapter (Torquay)
Match Rating: ★★ ★

PLYMOUTH (1) 2 (Sims 35, Rogers 64)
GILLINGHAM (0) 0
 Att: 4,179
Plymouth: Crudgington 6, Nisbet 6, Uzzell 5, Harrison 6, Smith 7, Cooper 5, Hodges 5, Cook 5, Sims 6, McCartney 6. ***ROGERS 8**.
Gillingham: Hillyard 5, Sitton 4, Adams 5, Shaw 4, Weatherly 5. ***TYDEMAN 7**, Powell 4 (sub. Miller 5), Johnson 5, Cascarino 4, White 5, Price 4.
Referee: D. Lloyd (Worcestershire)
Match Rating: ★★ ★

READING (0) 1 (Dixon 65)
HUDDERSFIELD (0) 1 (Stanton 89)
 Att: 2,468
Reading: Judge 6, Williams 6. ***RICHARDSON 7**, Beavon 6, Hicks 6, Wood 6, Bason 6, Sanchez 6, Dixon 6, O'Sullivan 5, Donnellan 6 (sub. Earles 6).
Huddersfield: Cox 6, Brown 6, Burke 6, Stanton 6. ***SUTTON 7**, Hanvey 6, Lillis 6, Doyle 6, Russell 5 (sub. Pugh 6), Wilson 6, Cowling 6.
Referee: M. J. Bodenham (Brighton)
Match Rating: ★★ ★

WIGAN (0) 0
OXFORD (1) 1 (Foley 18)
 Att: 4,008
Wigan: Tunks 7, McMahon 6, Cribble 6, O'Keefe 5, Walsh 6, Methven 7, Glenn 6, Langley 7, Butler 6, Lowe 6 (sub. Bradd). ***WESTON 8**.
Oxford: Burton 6, Linney 7, Fogg 8, Shotton 7, Grant 7, Brock 7, Lawrence 7 (sub. Barnett). ***HEBBERT 9**, Smithers 6, Foley 7, Vinter 5.
Referee: K. A. Redfern (Whitley Bay)
Match Rating: ★★ ★

MATCHFACTS MATCHFACTS

Division Four

BLACKPOOL (0) 3 (Hockaday 63, Downes, pen 68, Bamber 81)
SCUNTHORPE (0) 1 (Cammack 89)
 Att: 2,860
Blackpool: Hesford 7, **BARDSLEY** 9, Brockbank 6, Deary 7, Hetzke 7, Serella 6, Hockaday 7 (sub. Noble 6), Jeffrey 6, Bamber 8, Pashley 7, Downes 6.
Scunthorpe: Neenan 7, Keeley 7, **★POINTON** 8, Cartwright 7, Baines 6, Hunter 6, O'Berg 7, Cammack 7, Cowling 6, Angus 6, Leman 6 (sub. Oates 6).
Referee: D. Owen (Wirral)
Match Rating: ★★

BURY (0) 2 (Madden 46, Parker 48)
BRISTOL CITY (0) 2 (Chandler 61, Crawford 66)
 Att: 2,196
Bury: Brown 7, Gardner 7, Bramhall 7, Halliday 6, **★DAVIES** 8, Gore 5, Hilton, P 7 (sub. Potts 6), Jakub 6, Madden 6, Parker 6, Firth 6.
Bristol City: Shaw 7, **★COOPER** 8, Phillipson-Masters 7, Nicholls 6, Johnson 6, Economou 6, Ritchie 6, Newman 6, Riley 7, Chandler 6, Crawford 6.
Referee: J. Lovatt (Crewe)
Match Rating: ★★

CHESTER (0) 0
YORK (1) 1 (Walwyn 39)
 Att: 1,185
Chester: Salmon 5, Dean 6, Lane 6, Storton 7, Bradley 6, Johnson 5, **★SLOAN** 8, Cooke 5, Thomas 6, Ludlam 5 (sub. Bulmer), Wilson 7.
York: Jones 6, Evans 7, Hay 6, Sbragia 5, Smith 5, Hood 6, Laverick 7, Crosby 6, **★WALWYN** 8, Ford 7, Pollard 6.
Referee: A. Seville (Birmingham)
Match Rating: ★★

DARLINGTON v **PETERBOROUGH** —
Match Postponed

HEREFORD (0) 1 (Phillips 66)
NORTHAMPTON (0) 1 (Massey 54)
 Att: 1,679
Hereford: Powell 7, Price 7, Bray 7, Hicks 7, Pejic 7, Ross 6, Harvey 5, Lane 6 (sub. **★MUSIAL** 8), Showers 5, Phillips 6, White 5.
Northampton: Freeman 6, Tucker 7, Phillips 7, Gage 7, Burrows 6, Coffill 6, Heeley 6, **★BUCHANAN** 8, Muir 5, Massey 6, Denyer 5 (sub. Belfon 5).
Referee: E. Read (Bristol)
Match Rating: ★★

PORT VALE (1) 1 (Newton 15)
WIMBLEDON (0) 0
 Att: 2,761
Port Vale: **★SIDALL** 8, Tarrt 6, Bromage 6, Hunter 7, Sproson 6, Cegielski 6, Fox 7, Moss 6, Newton 7, Greenhoff 6, Armstrong 7.
Wimbledon: Beasant 7, Peters 6, Ferns 6, Galliers 7, Smith 6, Hatter 6, Evans 7, Ketteridge 7, Entwistle 6, Downes 7 (sub. Hodges 6), **★GAGE** 8.
Referee: F. Roberts (Prestatyn)
Match Rating: ★★

ROCHDALE (2) 3 (Thompson 42, Martinez 43, French, pen 75)
ALDERSHOT (0) 1 (Banton 81)
 Att: 1,003
Rochdale: Pearce 7, Keenan 7, Snookes 8, Farrell 7, McElhinney 6, **★WILLIAMS** 9, Thompson 7, Greaves 6, French 6, Hilditch 7, Martinez 7.
Aldershot: Johnson 7, Lucas 6, Gillard 6, Goddard 7, **★WOOD** 8, Wooler 7, Shrub 6, Banton 7, Sanford 6, McDonald 7, Brodie 6.
Referee: D. Hutchinson (Harrowgate)
Match Rating: ★★

SWINDON (1) 3 (Rideout, pen 42, Rowland 65, 74)
HARTLEPOOL (0) 0
 Att: 4,118
Swindon: Allan 7, Bailey 7, Baddeley 7, Emmanuel 7, Lewis 7, Graham 7, Pritchard 6, Batty 6, Rideout 7, **★ROWLAND** 8, Barnard 7.
Hartlepool: **★WRIGHT** 8, Brown 7, Johnson 6, Hogan 6, Bird 7, Linighan 7, Barker 6, Dobson 6 (sub. Staff), Linacre 7, Smith 6, Lawrence 6.
Referee: B. Daniels (Brentwood)
Match Rating: ★★

SCOTTISH Premier Division

DUNDEE (0) 0
ABERDEEN (1) 2 (McGhee 28, 54)
 Att: 6,528
Dundee: Kelly 7, Glennie 6 (sub. McGlashan), McKimmie 7, MacDonald 6, Smith 7, **★FRASER** 8, Stephen 6 (sub. McGeechie 6), Bell 7, Mackie 6, Sinclair 6, Murphy 6.
Aberdeen: Leighton 7, Kennedy 7, Rougie 6, Cooper 7, McLeish 7, Miller 7, Strachan 7, Simpson 6, **★MCGHEE** 8, Black 6, Weir 7.
Referee: J. Duncan (Gorebridge)
Match Rating: ★★

KILMARNOCK (0) 0
CELTIC (1) 4 (Provan 1, McAdam 55, McGarvey 75, Burns 80)
 Att: 9,000
Kilmarnock: McCulloch 6, Robertson 7, Cockburn 6, Clarke 6, McDicken 7, Clark 7, McLurg 5 (sub. Clark, R 6), Gallagher 6, MacLeod 6, **★MCGIVERN** 8, Bryson 6 (sub. McKinna).
Celtic: Bonner 7, McGrain 6, Sinclair 7, Aitken 7, McAdam 7, MacLeod 7, Provan 6 (sub. McCluskey), McStay 7, McGarvey 7, **★BURNS** 8, Nicholas 7.
Referee: H. F. Williamson (Renfrew)
Match Rating: ★★

MOTHERWELL (0) 0
HIBERNIAN (1) 1 (Murray 40)
 Att: 3,850
Motherwell: Sproat 7, McLeod 6, Forsyth 6, Forbes 7, Edvaldsson 7, Mauchlen 6, **★FLAVELL** 8, O'Hara 6 (sub. McClair 6), Rafferty 7 (sub. Graham 6), McLaughlin 6, Gahagan 6.
Hibs: Rough 7, Sneddon 6, Turnbull 7, Rae 6, Jamieson 7, Conroy 6, McNamara 7, **★RICE** 8, Duncan 7, Callaghan 6, Murray 7.
Referee: D. Syme (Glasgow)
Match Rating: ★★

MORTON (1) 1 (McNab 12)
DUNDEE UNITED (1) 2 (Reilly 31, Sturrock 67)
 Att: 3,000
Morton: Baines 6, Hayes 7, Holmes 7, Rooney 6, McLaughlin 6, **★DUFFY** 8, Docherty 6, Cochrane 6, McNab 7, Ritchie 7 (sub. McNeill), Doak (sub. Houston 6).
Dundee Utd: McAlpine 7, Stark 6, Malpas 7, **★GOUGH** 8, Hegarty 7, Narey 6, Bannion 7, Milne 6, Reilly 7, Sturrock 7, Dodds 7.
Referee: E. Pringle (Edinburgh)
Match Rating: ★★

RANGERS (1) 1 (MacDonald 20)
ST MIRREN (0) 0
 Att: 10,200
Rangers: Stewart 7, McKinnon 6, Redford 6, **★MCLELLAND** 8, Paterson 7, Bett 7, Black 6, Mackay 6 (sub. Smith), Kennedy 6, Russell 7, MacDonald 6 (sub. Prytz).
St Mirren: Thomson 7, Wilson 7, Clarke 6, Fulton 6, Fitzpatrick 7, Copland 7, Stark 6, Richardson 7, Somner 7, McAvennie 6 (sub. Logan), **★SCANLON** 8.
Referee: A. Waddell (Edinburgh)
Match Rating: ★★

First Division

HAMILTON (1) 1 (Fairlie 5)
ST JOHNSTONE (0) 1 (Pelosi 69)
 Att: 1,213

RAITH (0) 0
CLYDEBANK (1) 3 (Given 2, Coyne 76, Ronald 78)
 Att: 800

ALLOA v **AYR** — *Match Postponed*
CLYDE v **DUNFERMLINE** — *Match Postponed*

DUMBARTON v **AIRDRIE** — *Match Postponed*

HEARTS v **QUEEN'S PARK** — *Match Postponed*

PARTICK v **FALKIRK** — *Match Postponed*

Second Division

ARBROATH (1) 3 (Docherty 15, Robb 58, Gavine 85)
EAST FIFE (0) 1 (Thomson 67)
 Att: 498

MONTROSE (1) 1 (Copeland 88)
BERWICK (0) 0
 Att: 150

COWDENBEATH v **ALBION** — *Match Postponed*

Scottish Cup First Round

PETERHEAD (0) 0
FORFAR (2) 5 (Gallagher 5, MacDonald 28, 49, Clark 81, Lorimer 87)
 Att: 702

STIRLING (0) 1 (Colquhoun 74)
EAST STIRLING (0) 0
 Att: 588

VALE OF LEITHEN (0) 0
STRANRAER (0) 0
 Att: 150

LEAGUE TABLES

Division One

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Liverpool	19	7	2	0	27	8	5	2	3	18	9	40
Man. Utd.	19	7	2	0	19	4	3	4	3	10	35	
Nott'm Fo't	19	7	1	1	18	6	4	1	5	15	19	35
Watford	19	7	2	1	24	6	3	1	5	13	16	33
Aston Villa	19	8	0	2	24	10	2	1	6	6	14	31
West Ham	19	6	1	2	20	9	4	0	6	13	19	31
Coventry	20	8	2	1	18	7	1	2	6	7	17	31
West Brom	19	7	1	1	21	7	2	2	6	10	21	30
Man. City	19	6	3	1	14	8	2	1	6	9	18	28
Ipswich	20	4	1	4	15	11	3	5	3	17	13	27
Tottenham	19	6	2	2	26	11	2	1	6	4	16	27
Everton	19	5	4	1	21	11	2	1	6	11	15	26
Southampton	19	6	1	3	15	10	1	3	5	9	22	25
Stoke	19	5	2	2	21	15	2	1	7	11	16	24
Notts County	19	5	2	3	14	15	2	1	6	10	19	24
Arsenal	19	3	3	12	12	3	2	5	9	14	23	
Swansea	19	6	1	3	17	11	0	3	6	9	19	22
Brighton	19	6	2	1	14	7	0	2	8	5	30	22
Luton	19	3	4	2	20	15	1	4	5	16	28	20
Sunderland	19	3	4	3	15	11	1	1	7	9	26	17
Norwich	19	4	2	4	15	12	0	3	6	5	21	17
Birmingham	19	3	3	3	9	12	0	5	5	3	17	17

Division Two

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Q.P.R.	20	7	2	1	21	8	5	2	3	10	9	40
Wolves	19	8	0	2	26	9	3	4	2	10	10	37
Fulham	19	6	2	1	18	10	5	1	4	23	17	35
Shef. Wed	19	5	4	1	18	10	4	1	4	14	12	30
Grimby	19	6	2	2	19	11	3	1	5	11	20	30
Leicester	19	4	1	5	15	10	1	3	2	0	13	29
O'dham	19	4	1	1	18	11	3	4	1	13	29	
Leeds	19	4	4	2	13	9	3	4	2	10	9	29
Shrewsbury	19	4	3	2	9	7	4	2	4	15	17	29
Barnsley	19	3	5	1	16	12	3	4	1	13	26	
Blackburn	19	3	5	2	20	11	2	2	5	11	19	26
Crystal Pal	19	5	3	1	16	8	1	4	5	7	15	25
Carlisle	19	6	1	3	25	17	1	3	13	22	25	
Chelsea	19	5	4	1	16	8	1	2	6	7	15	24
Newcastle	19	4	3	2	12	9	3	3	5	19	24	
Charlton	19	5	1	4	17	16	2	2	5	11	23	24
Rotherham	19	3	3	3	9	12	2	4	1	13	18	22
Middlesbro	19	4	1	4	13	20	1	5	4	9	19	21
Bolton	19	4	1	4	16	15	0	4	6	3	13	17
Cambridge	20	4	4	2	15	13	0	1	9	6	20	17
Burnley	19	3	2	4	14	14	1	1	9	13	24	15
Derby	19	2	5	3	10	14	0	4	5	8	16	15

Division Three

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lincoln	18	10	0	0	35	5	4	0	4	9	11	42
Bristol R.	20	9	1	1	32	6	2	3	4	13	14	37
Cardiff	19	7	1	1	15	6	4	2	4	16	20	36
Newport	19	7	3	0	20	8	3	2	4	12	13	35
Portsmouth	19	7	0	2	20	8	3	4	3	11	15	34
Middlesfield	19	7	3	0	26	6	2	3	4	8	12	33
Brentford	19	8	1	1	29	10	1	4	4	15	20	32
Plymouth	19	8	0	2	13	8	1	4	4	13	22	31
Oxford	18	3	5	0	15	8	3	1	4	16	13	30
Southend	19	6	1	2	20	10	3	3	6	12	17	29
Bradford C.	18	3	0	22	12	2	2	5	9	15	29	
Gillingham	19	5	1	3	13	8	3	1	6	9	12	26
Wigan	19	6	0	4	20	12	2	1	6	14	19	25
Exeter	20	5	3	2	22	17	1	3	6	10	27	24
Bournemouth	20	3	3	10	7	3	2	6	7	23	23	
Wrexham	19	5	2	2	10	7	1	3	6	6	22	23
Reading	20	5	3	2	20	13	0	3	7	14	28	21
Sheffield U.	18	4	2	3	12	9	1	3	5	7	15	20
Chatterfield	19	2	6	10	12	2	4	3	8	11	18	
Orient	19	4	2	4	16	22	1	1	7	3	22	18
Preston	19	2	5	2	12	10	2	0	8	14	26	17
Doncaster	19	3	6	1	27	22	0	1	8	5	21	16
Millwall	19	3	5	1	14	12	0	2	8	8	22	16
Walsall	19	3	2	4	9	13	0	4	6	12	24	15

LEADING SCORERS

(League, Cups, Total)

Division One

Rush (Liverpool)	13	2	15
Stein (Luton)	14	1	15
Latchesett (Swansea)	10	4	14
Blissett (Watford)	11	1	12
Wallace (Nott'm Forest)	8	4	12
Deehan (Norwich)	10	1	11
Rowell (Sunderland)	9	2	11
Wark (Ipswich)	9	1	10
Birtles (Nott'm Forest)	6	4	10
Crooks (Spurs)	7	3	10
Regis (West Brom)	8	2	10

Division Two

Davies (Fulham)	14	1	15
Drinkell (Grimby)	10	5	15
Lineker (Leicester)	14	0	14
Glavin (Barnsley)	10	4	14
Bannister (Sheff. Wed.)	12	1	13
Davison (Derby)	9	3	12
(12 with Halifax)			
Garner (Blackburn)	11	0	11
Shoulder (Carlisle)	11	0	11
Keegan (Newcastle)	11	0	11

Division Three

Dixon (Reading)	20	0	20
Bell (Lincoln)	15	3	18

SNATCHED!

DERBY BEAT THE QUEUE FOR BOBBY

LESS than a year ago, striker Bobby Davison was staring the dole queue in the face with Halifax on the brink of extinction.

The Fourth Division club managed to survive, Bobby duly celebrated his first full season in the League with twenty goals and now he's a £65,000 player in the Second Division with Derby.

It marks a dramatic change in fortune for the 23-year-old, who just over two years ago was still playing in the Wearside League with Seaham.

Ironically, he scored three goals against Derby in Halifax's 6-4 aggregate defeat in the Milk Cup earlier this season, but he believes the arrival at the Baseball Ground of Roy McFarland probably paved his way to the Midlands.

"I think Roy McFarland's move from Bradford is the real reason for their interest," says Bobby, who was given his chance by Huddersfield.

"I played against Roy three times in the past year so he obviously knows plenty about me.

"And, apparently, manager Peter Taylor watched me in our 2-1 win at Hartlepool in what proved to be my last game for Halifax.

"The move came right out of the blue. I knew nothing about it until the boss told me to report to the ground, wearing a collar and tie, because someone wanted to talk to me."

"It was towards the end of last season that I became aware of clubs showing an interest, but there had been no definite bids until Derby came in."

With 29 goals in 63 League appearances for Halifax, manager Micky Bullock placed his leading scorer in the £200,000 price bracket.

But in the end, hard-up Halifax couldn't resist Derby's offer, even though some of the money went straight to his previous club, Huddersfield.

They sold him to Halifax for £20,000 last season after Bobby had played only one full League

game for them, and insisted on a percentage of any subsequent transfer fee.

Looking forward to a new career in the Second Division, Bobby reflected on his roundabout route to the big time.

"I never made the district schools team back in South Shields, but I did play for a good youth club side.

"One of my mates in that side was Phil Brown who went straight to Hartlepool, but I had to wait a bit longer before Huddersfield came along to give me a chance in professional football.

"To be honest, I didn't really want to leave Huddersfield but Halifax offered me the chance of first team football so I eventually agreed to the move.

"It was an opportunity to show my ability in the shop window in the hope that somebody would like what they saw.

"And, as it has turned out, it has proved to be a stepping stone to better things."

Arsenal, Manchester United, Aston Villa, Everton, Spurs, Birmingham and Sunderland had all been trailing Bobby, but it was Peter Taylor who pulled off the typical scoop.

"Half the First Division had turned up to check on Davison but nobody wanted to make a decision," says the Derby boss.

"The scouts had scratched their heads and left the decision



Bobby Davison — dramatic change of fortune.

to somebody else, but we moved within 24 hours.

"It was very reminiscent of some of the deals we pulled off in the old days. Bigger, richer clubs than Derby were queuing up to look at the likes of Roy McFarland and Archie Gemmill but we nipped in while they were plucking up the courage to make

an offer.

"In football it is easy to find people to give the thumbs down to talent but not many are prepared to give the go-ahead to deals, especially in the lower divisions.

"Only time will tell, but we think we have come up with a terrific prospect. He has a natural flair for goals and he will be a better player in a higher grade of soccer."

Pen pals

I'm a 13-year-old Birmingham fan and would like a pen pal of my own age who supports any team.
Laurence Sale, 'Sir Isaac Newton', Harlaxton Road, Grantham, Lincs. NG31 7SA.

CELTIC and Man. Utd are my favourite teams. I'd like to write to a girl fan between the ages of 16 and 18.
Mark McClure, 4 Sommerville Drive, Stevenston, Ayrshire.

NETBALL and rounders are my favourite sports as well as football.

I'm a Bolton fan and would like a pen pal of my own age.
Sharon Tuke (15), 70 Cloister Street, Bolton, Lancs.

I'm a 16-year-old Arsenal fanatic and would like to write to a fellow 'Gunnery' supporter. I like music and playing most sports.
David Pavli, PO Box 5150, 3 Zaimi Street, Strovolos, Nicosia, Cyprus.

I'd like to write to someone who follows English football, particularly non-League.
Cliff Childs, 37 Longmore Avenue, East Barnet, Herts.

COLLECTING pop badges, listening to music and supporting Aston Villa, Spurs and Everton are my hobbies. I'd like a female pen pal.
Paul Morlan, 8 Green Road, Longford Road, Mullingar, County Westmeath, Eire.

I'm a Liverpool fan and would like a female pen pal of my own age who lives in Manchester and goes to Anfield regularly.
Elaine Roach (17), 6 Rivermead Road, Denton, Manchester M34 1PG.



Dalglish is back! After missing Scotland's last three games, deadly Kenny Dalglish returned with a vengeance against Belgium to score two goals. Here he is congratulated by Steve Archibald after opening the scoring.

VAN-QUISHED

FRANCOIS PIPS SCOTS

THERE was little festive cheer for Scotland who now face an uphill battle to qualify for the Finals of the European Championships after losing 3-2 to Belgium in Brussels.

But it could have been so different if Leeds defender Frank Gray hadn't missed a 75th minute penalty which would almost certainly have given Jock Stein's men at least a share of the spoils against a strong Belgian side that is now unbeaten in their last 17 home games.

Twice Scotland took the lead — Liverpool striker Kenny Dalglish marking his return from the international wilderness with two world class goals — but the Belgians took the points thanks to West Ham's Francois Van der Elst (2) and Irwin Vandenberg.



The race is on for Scotland's Alan Hansen as he sprints for the ball with West Ham's Belgium hero Francois Van der Elst.



Goal! England's landslide victory gets under way as a Blissett cross deflects into the Luxembourg net via Bossi (4) and helpless 'keeper Moes.



Goal! Number two coming up as Manchester United's Steve Coppell rises above the Luxembourg defence to head home a Kenny Sansom cross.

Goal! Hat-trick hero Luther Blissett nets the first of his three goals on his England debut with a mis-hit shot after good work by Woodcock.



Goal! England's best player on the night, Tony Woodcock, puts his side 3-0 up with a close range diving header after Alvin Martin had nodded down a Coppell corner.



NINEPINS!

LUXEMBOURG REEL UNDER ENGLAND GOAL BLITZ

ENGLAND provided their fans and manager Bobby Robson with an early Christmas present in the shape of a sackful of goals against lowly Luxembourg.

The little team from the 'Grand Duchy' were sunk without trace under an avalanche of attacking football that produced England's biggest ever Wembley victory.

And it was debutant Luther Blissett — the first Watford player to represent

England — who stole the show with three of his country's nine goals.

It left England standing proudly in command at the top of their Group Three European Championship qualifying table and delighted manager Robson commented:

"What really pleased me is that we played penetrating football. We had so much of the ball it would have been easy to have played negative, possession football. But we didn't."



Goal! Super sub Mark Chamberlain of Stoke City marks his debut with a rare headed goal to put England six up.

STAR GALLERY

NEWCASTLE's Terry McDermott has been chosen by 14-year-old Stephen West, of Grays, Essex, for his 'outstanding midfield skill'.



THIS is Barnsley midfielder Ian Banks as seen by 14-year-old Catriona Gilfillan, of Barnsley. "He's a highly entertaining player who deserves to play for England", she says.

DRAW a picture of your favourite footballer and you could win a fabulous soccer card game! 'Big League' is an exciting new game normally played by 2-6 people — the object being to form a team of 11 players.

But you can also amuse yourself by playing 'Big League' patience.

It's a game approved by the Football League and all you have to do to stand a chance of winning one is send in your drawing together with a sentence saying why your chosen player deserves a place in 'Star Gallery'.

The sender of each drawing published is a winner! Write to: 'Star Gallery', Match Weekly, Stirling House, Bretton, Peterborough PE3 8DJ.



"A BRILLIANT crosser of the ball". That's how 16-year-old Lynda Wacey, of Gravesend, Kent, describes West Ham's England midfielder star Trevor Brooking.



FULHAM scoring ace Gordon Davies is the subject of 15-year-old Andy Ward, of Putney, London, who says: "He is one of the fastest strikers in the game, has bags of skill and is a deadly finisher."

TERRACE TALK

Edited by Michael Weavers



WELCOME to the best read letters page in football . . . with unique prizes for every reader who gets his or her letter published!

Yes, throughout the season we'll be giving away a super metal lapel badge (pictured) to every person whose comments are published in 'Match' and each badge will carry that special 'Terrace Talk' logo.

It's a prize that money can't buy and one could be yours! Plus we will be giving a prize of £10 for what we consider to be the star letter of the week and, of course, the sender will also receive a 'Terrace Talk' badge.

So get those letters coming in NOW and you could be the envy of your friends.

Write to: Michael Weavers, 'Terrace Talk' Editor, Match Weekly, Stirling House, Bretton, Peterborough PE3 8DJ.

DID you know that just before a friendly international between Greece and China, music blared out of the loudspeakers and both sets of players jumped to attention.

The Greeks thought the music was the Chinese national anthem and the Chinese thought it was the Greek anthem. Imagine how they felt when they found out it was a toothpaste commercial! Paul Hooper, Netley Abbey, Southampton.

NOT enough is being done to attract women to matches. Surely these weekly clashes of soccer gladiators could be stage-managed to ensure that women, too, are entertained?

Why not have a fashion parade before games? And how about a 'Mister Body Beautiful' competition at half-time, featuring fans from the two teams.

Speaking of half-time, the catering isn't what it should be. I'd be grateful if some dainty little sandwiches or tempting salads were offered instead of those awful pies.

Mrs D. Ascough, Devizes, Wiltshire.

● CAN you imagine the Liverpool Kop tucking into cucumber sandwiches while watching the latest women's fashions? The mind boggles.

I'M a great Arsenal fan but I must protest about the way Pat Jennings, a goalkeeper who has

done so much for 'The Gunners', has been treated.

Although Pat has been playing for years, he's still the best 'keeper in Britain. He had to wait for his first team chance with Arsenal this season and, when he got it, he played magnificently only to be dropped in favour of George Wood the following game.

The reason for this was that "the younger man was preferred." No wonder Pat was angry.

Of the two Arsenal goalkeepers, Pat is by far the best. And he deserves to finish his distinguished career at the top — in the Arsenal first team. David Alderson, Stafford.



Pat Jennings — treated badly by Arsenal, says David Alderson.

I WAS reading through some back issues of 'Match' and I had to laugh when I read a letter in 'Terrace Talk' from a reader who claimed that Watford would have to plunge into the transfer market if they hoped to make an impression in the First Division this season.

How wrong that writer has been proved to be. Watford have shown that an open chequebook is no guarantee for success and that a settled, well-organised outfit can compete with the best. John McBrearty, Benfleet, Essex.



Bobby Robson — showed great wisdom in dropping Keegan, says Kenneth Allen.

ENGLAND manager Bobby Robson showed great wisdom and foresight by dropping Kevin Keegan from the England team at the start of his reign.

It was a courageous decision because Keegan was one of England's finest players in recent years. But Robson has been proved to be right. Keegan has lost some of his pace, he misses chances he never would have missed a few years ago, and the players Robson has drafted in to replace the 'old guard' have responded magnificently.

I doubt whether players like Sammy Lee and Gary Mabbutt would have been given their chance to shine if Robson had stuck by established players — like Keegan.

Kenneth Allen, Redruth, Cornwall.

**£10
WINNER**

PREPARATION IS A JOKE

THE way our national teams prepare for vital fixtures is a joke.

Each time a national boss names a squad, he has his plans shattered by the crop of injuries which follow League fixtures.

Poor Bobby Robson (England), Mike England (Wales), Jock Stein (Scotland) and Billy Bingham (N. Ireland) must dread the Saturday night phone calls from casualties crying off from international duty.

It's time the home countries copied their Continental rivals and called off the Saturday League fixtures — involving international players — immediately prior to a big game.

I want to see British teams winning European Championships and World Cups. And we will only do that if we get our priorities right and put international football first.

William Goddard (14), Elstree, Herts.

WHEN many football fans are finding it expensive to support their favourite side, it was nice to see Wolves cutting prices by half for children and pensioners.

Great stuff, Wolves. Paul Wild, Wolverhampton.

FOOTBALL clubs should take more pride in their programmes. I've not seen one First Division programme to match Liverpool's.

The Anfield programme has 24 pages, is tremendously colourful and the centre pages, when taken out, become fantastic posters for my scrapbook.

The Everton programme, by comparison, has only 16 pages and is far less entertaining. Phillip Barnes, Skelmersdale, Lancs.

STONE the crows! The FA Cup is strictly for the birds, according to his Golden Goof sent in by John McShane, of Wimborne, Dorset.

Crows trouble at
CHESHAM UNITED, where
the home side were beaten
1-0 by famous campaigners
YEOVIL TOWN.

I'D like to congratulate Steve McGarry on his superb drawings. I think 'Golden Goal' is smashing.

Gary Murphy (begging for a Terrace Talk badge), Bebington, Merseyside.

I THINK 'Match' is great — much better than other soccer magazines — but I reckon your competitions are 'fixed'.

I have sent in hundreds of entries to competitions and haven't won one prize.

Ian Farmer, Shipley, West Yorkshire.

● **TRY getting the answers right next time.**

IT was my brother's birthday treat, and we went to watch Liverpool play Brighton at Anfield.

I was horrified to see Anfield's admission price boards. Instead of 'Children £1', they said 'Boys £1'. This is male chauvinism on the part of the Liverpool Board! Claire Bollard, Abingdon, Oxon.

● **SO burn your scarf!**

IT'S great to see 34-year-old Frank Worthington back in the First Division. Frank is a proven goalscorer and should prove a valuable asset to his new club, Sunderland.

But while it is good to see manager Alan Durban strengthening the fire-power at Roker Park, he must realise he needs at least one top class defender to prevent goals at the other end.

Sunderland's defensive record is poor. Unless they tighten up at the back, they seem sure to be involved in a relegation struggle at the end of the season.

Victor Butchers, Stone, Kent.

FOOTBALL clubs are continually moaning about the state of the

game. They see no solution to falling attendances.

They must see that football alone will not keep them in business. Newcastle recently held a Rolling Stones concert at St. James's Park and 38,000 people turned up — paying over £300,000 in admission prices. That's more than Newcastle United make in ten matches.

Clubs must see that they must make better use of their grounds if they want to stay financially secure in these difficult times.

Brian Wormean, Sandyford, Newcastle.



Norman Whiteside — he's being carried by the rest of the team, says Mike Laney.

I DON'T think that Manchester United boss Ron Atkinson will be able to keep Norman Whiteside, United's Northern Ireland striker, in the team for much longer.

From what I've seen, the rest of the United team are carrying Norman. The young Irishman contributes very little to the team effort and has squandered good goal-scoring chances — like the open goal miss in the televised Milk Cup tie with Southampton at Old Trafford earlier this month.

Mike Laney, Portishead, Bristol.

● **TRUE, Norman missed a sitter in that match. But he made amends with a well-taken goal to cement United's 2-0 victory. There's no question of Whiteside 'being carried'. He's in the team on merit.**

SWOP SHOP

OFFER: Thirty Liverpool colour pictures and 11 Liverpool football cards.

WANTS: Any Division Four programmes. Christopher Sampson, 14 Cavour Road, Sheerness, Kent.

OFFER: "Goalkeepers Are Different" book. **WANTS:** Liverpool annual 1979 or 1981, or 20 Liverpool programmes (home). John Earls, 24 Portrush Close, Windmill Hill, Bletchley, Bucks.

OFFER: Ajax scarves (silk and wool), rosette and mini pennant.

WANTS: Republic of Ireland scarf, team photographs, woollen hat and club badge. Ian Montellier, 49 Weston Court, Queens Drive, London.

OFFER: Subbuteo pitch, grandstand and England and Italy teams.

WANTS: 1978/79 season Liverpool v Arsenal programme. Mark Meharry, 39 Abbey Drive, Bangor, County Down, Northern Ireland.

OFFER: Eighteen Wembley programmes (1962-68).

WANTS: Subbuteo terracing and corner terracing. Paul Maddams, 609 Barking Road, Plaistow, London.

OFFER: Puma Stoke size ten — only used twice.

WANTS: A team shirt from any of the London clubs. Home or away, old or new, size 42. John-Olof Carlsson, Herrhagsgata 19, 652 23 Karlstad, Sweden.

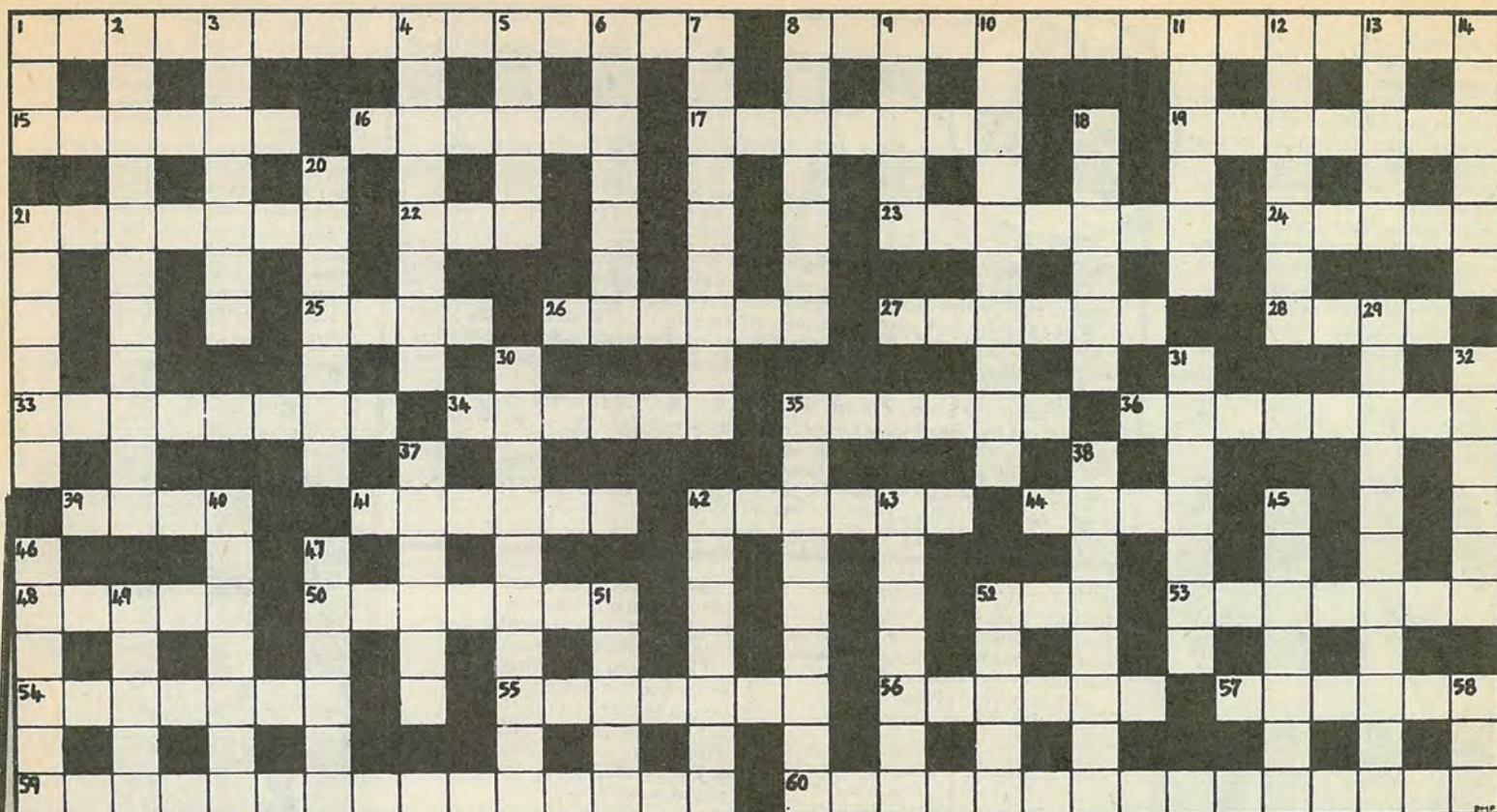
OFFERS: 1972 FA Cup Final programme, 1973 Semi-Final and Final programmes and four Leeds United programmes.

WANTS: Match Weekly issues (1, 2 and 38). Chris Taylor, 1 Roden Villas, Newtown, Salop.

OFFER: Colour photographs of Stuart Pearson, Alex Stepney, Andy Ritchie, Brian and Jimmy Greenhoff all in Man Utd strip (8"x5").

WANTS: Manchester United v Barcelona European Cup Final programme 1968, or programmes from Manchester United v Estudiantes 1968 World Club Championship Final, Second Division or Scottish League. Andrew Tranter, 10 Wilton Avenue, Cellarhead, Stoke-on-Trent.

SWOP SHOP



ACROSS

1. This club set its transfer records when it bought Reilly and sold Biley (9,6)
8. Where Brighton are at home in Hove (9,6)
15. Try and win the ball from an opponent (6)
16. Midfielder Steve split 500 appearances fifty-fifty — half with Crystal Palace in two spells, and half shared between Chelsea and Leicester (6)
17. West Germany's Horst Hrubesch has this nickname (7)
19. Brentford are based at --- Park (7)
21. Country which provided stiff opposition for England when they were qualifying for the 1982 World Cup Finals (7)
22. Kevin Keegan has been sidelined with an injured one this season (3)
23. Welsh club (7)
24. --- time amounts to thirty minutes (5)
25. The number of spectators (4)
26. Blackburn Rovers are "The Blue and ---" (6)

CHRISTMAS

27. Bristol City are "The ---" (6)
28. Famous old standing area at Stamford Bridge (4)
33. The manager who led Sunderland into the First Division (8)
- 34 & 31 down. He scored for Manchester United in that thrilling 1979 FA Cup Final (6,7)
35. 'Browse' (anagram) — see if you can find defender Danny (6)
36. Defender in Aston Villa's European Cup-winning team (8)
39. Nottingham Forest's nickname (4)
41. 'Pearly' (anagram) — one of the team (6)
42. Old Newcastle and Scotland man who followed Bobby Saxton as manager of Plymouth Argyle (6)
44. The only country to lose a match in Group One at the 1982 World Cup Finals (4)
48. One of Argentina's star strikers in the 1970s — he was famous for his speed and was unmistakable with very long hair streaming behind him (5)
50. It comes before Money! (7)
52. The manager who took Arsenal to their FA Cup and League title double in 1970-71 (3)
53. This club has won seven First Division Championships (7)
54. Bringing a ball under control (7)
55. He was manager at Sunderland before 33 across and he went on to Darlington (7)
56. An FA Cup-winner with Spurs in 1981 and 1982 (6)
57. Where the 1983 European Cup Final will be played (6)
59. Yorkshire club (9,6)
60. Yorkshire club (9,6)
4. The last World Cup Final was played on the --- of July 1982 (8)
5. High-scoring midfielder whose long service took in Newcastle, Swindon, Burnley and Blackpool (5)
6. A --- ball can split a defence (7)
7. Boghead Park is the place to see this Scottish side (9)
8. In a word, Arsenal! (7)
9. One of last season's table-toppers (5)
10. The club for which Arthur Rowley holds both the seasonal and aggregate scoring records (10)
11. Liverpool notched this many League goals last season (6)
12. 'Dear Sir' (anagram) — this is another word for 'attackers' (7)
13. Not in condition to play (5)
14. He became player-manager of Scunthorpe United in 1981 (6)
18. The home club in a match is usually said to have --- advantage (6)
20. Old England left-winger whose career ran from the 1930s to the 1950s, beginning and ending at Blackburn and going via Preston and Bolton (7)
21. A player may have to --- a penalty (6)
29. It sounds as if it could be a player's name, but it's actually the name of Hereford's home (5,6)
30. 'Not a comedy' (anagram) — Fulham's famous former 'keeper' (4,6)
31. See 34 across
32. 'Lets on' (anagram) — reveals what happened to the European Cup since it has been in Aston Villa's possession (6)
35. He was both ever-present and top-scorer for Sheffield Wednesday last season (9)
37. Passes with a twitch of the boot (6)

DOWN

1. Keeper Peter Bonetti had this nickname (3)
2. Midfielder who began his career with Coventry and moved to Norwich in 1975 (4,7)
3. Referee's decisions (7)



Name this Aston Villa defender to find the answer to 36 across.

38. This famous old Welsh international played until he was fifty years old and he made over 300 appearances for each of the Manchester clubs (8)
40. The staying-power which every player needs (7)
42. What Hearts were nicknamed before they became "Jam Tarts" (7)
43. A goal-post (7)
45. The club which has its home at Deepdale (7)
46. Concentrated one's defensive attention on a particular attacker (6)
47. Defender who made his 150th appearance for 53 across at the start of the season (6)
49. He has been manager of all three 'W' clubs in the Midlands (5)
51. Midfielder who began his career with QPR but has since given good service to Plymouth and Exeter (5)
52. One of the managers whose first name can be seen at 34 across (5)
58. Old England stopper --- Owen played for and later managed 9 down (3)

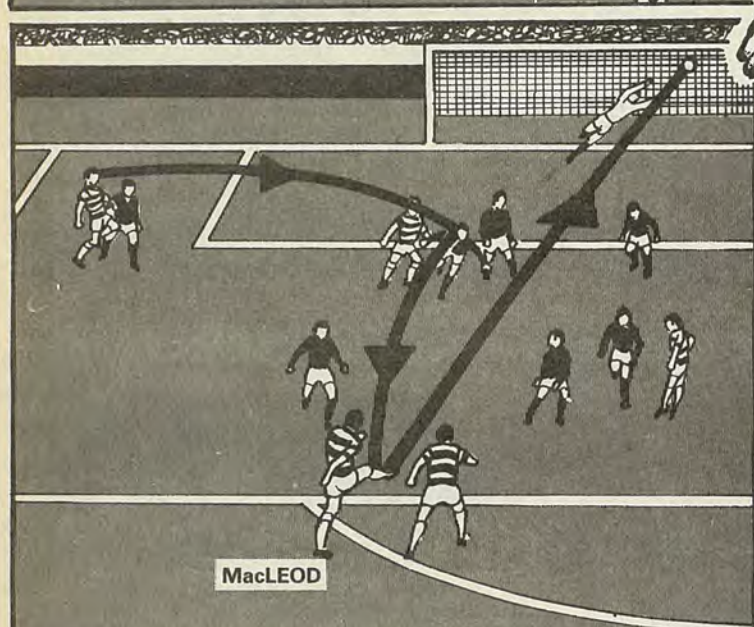
● Solutions on page 36



If you know the nickname of this West German international you have the answer to 17 across.

SOCCERWORD

The ball scorches goalwards from the boot of Murdo MacLeod (second right) to give Celtic a 2-0 lead.



Murdo MacLeod: "It's got to be one of the most important goals of my career."

**CELTIC 2
RANGERS 1**

Scottish League Cup Final, Hampden Park, Glasgow, Saturday, December 4, 1982.

"I LOVE having a crack at goal from outside the box — it's how I get most of my goals — and when Rangers skipper John McClelland headed the ball out to me, I couldn't resist it," says Murdo MacLeod, scorer of the second goal in Celtic's 2-1 Scottish League Cup Final victory.

"The ball broke nicely for me and I hit it just right. It was a great feeling when I saw the ball in the back of the net.

"At the time, I didn't think it would turn out to be the winner. We were coasting it in the first half and Rangers weren't getting a look in. We let them back early after the restart by giving away a silly goal.

"It's got to be one of the most important goals of my career. It gave me my first League Cup winners' medal and ended an eight-year jinx for Celtic in the competition.

"It's tremendous to have a trophy on the Parkhead sideboard so early in the season. Now we're out to try and add some more!"

**GOLDEN
GOAL!**

STEVE
McGARRY

**MURDO
MacLEOD**

UNWISE ERNIE!

DUTCHMAN Ernie Brandts hopes to follow in the successful footsteps of fellow countrymen Frans Thijssen and Arnold Muhren and play in the English Football League.

The PSV Eindhoven centre-half reveals: "I would simply love to finish my career in England."

Ernie had the chance two years ago when First Division Arsenal made a bid for him, but he turned them down and signed a new four-year contract with Eindhoven.

Now he admits: "I've often wondered whether I made a mistake. In many ways I think I did."

"Arsenal wanted me to partner David O'Leary at the back and I was more than interested. But my wife was expecting our first baby and was nervous about moving home before the baby arrived."

"I was still thinking about the move when PSV stepped in and offered me a four-year contract and, for the sake of my wife, I accepted."

With two years of his contract still to run, Ernie has not given up hope of moving to England.

He says: "I'm still only 26 and I've got a little time left — I just hope Arsenal's offer was not my last chance and someone will think about me when my contract with PSV is up."

"There's nothing to touch English football and everytime I see one of the games on television I get so excited — you could say that in my heart I'm a real English supporter."

Ernie will be remembered by English fans for his two-goal show in the 1978 World Cup

Finals in Argentina when he made a piece of football history.

He scored an own goal in Holland's game against Italy and then netted a cracker at the other end to save his face — and the match.

It is a game Ernie will never forget: "One minute I was feeling terrible because Holland would have been out of the World Cup if Italy had won."

"Then I got one in at the other end and I felt more than a little relieved!"

One English player who knows all about Ernie is former Newcastle striker, Ray Clarke who made his name for Sparta Rotterdam and later for Ajax.

Says Ray: "When I was with Sparta, Liverpool came over to watch me and it was just my luck that they chose our game with PSV and Ernie marked me out of the game."

"He is one of the very few centre-backs in Holland who could put the blocks on an English striker."

Ernie also comes in for praise from Ipswich Town's Frans Thijssen.

Frans was played alongside Ernie in the Dutch national side and says: "He is a very good centre-half — strong in the air and in the tackle."

"He has a similar style to many defenders in England and I am sure he would adapt to English soccer well."

"I am really enjoying my football over here and have not regretted the move for one minute."

"I am sure if Ernie is considering leaving Holland, England would be the right place to go."



Dutch international Ernie Brandts — wants to finish his career in England.

INTERNATIONAL HOT LINE

Barcelona 'blues' for Lattek

ARGENTINE World Cup-winning manager Cesar Menotti is now being seriously lined up to take over from Udo Lattek at Barcelona.

Menotti's contract with the Argentine FA ends this month and the Spanish giants see him as the obvious successor to Lattek who admits to feeling the pressure of managing the world's wealthiest club.

Says Lattek: "It's a terrible strain. I just can't sleep at night."

"We paid £4 million for Maradona and now everyone expects us to win every game."

"My family suffers as well. At the end of the season I feel I will have to call it a day and return to Germany."

Nantes sign Polish exile

CHRISTOPH Frankowski is a 23-year-old player with a little problem. The former Polish Under-21 star flew out of his troubled country and asked to be allowed to stay in France.

Nantes wanted him as a professional, but to get him cleared they needed the go-ahead from the Polish FA, which the Poles refused to give.

So Nantes have signed the player as an amateur and FIFA have promised to decide before next season whether he can turn professional with or without official Polish permission.

● **FORMER** Aston Villa player Keith Masefield got an early Christmas present when he was voted the most popular player by the supporters of Dutch side Haarlem.

It's the second time Keith has collected the trophy since he moved from Villa six years ago.

● **SPANISH** giants Real Madrid are making a habit of bringing back some of their most famous players in key club roles.

After luring former centre-forward Alfredo Di Stefano back as manager, they are now trying to recruit former defender Pirri as chief medical officer.

He is now in his final period of studies in medicine after two years' football in Mexico.

PIERRE PUTS IT DOWN TO PRACTICE

WEST German winger Pierre Littbarski, the man who sets up most of the chances for Karl Heinz Rummenigge in the national team, says he learned his football the old fashioned way.

He believes hours of practice in the streets and good coaching as a youngster helped him develop his skills.

Pierre, whose French name is unusual in Germany but comes from the Polish side of his family, says he used to play for hours in the streets from the age of five.

"Then I was lucky. My first club, Little Hertha, has more teams for young kids than any in the world," says Pierre.

"The professional side of their game may not be so good but their coaches spend hours on end with the children."

"There I could play every single day and the coaches taught me a couple of tricks that you just can't learn in the streets."

BALANCE OF POWER

FOOTBALL has levelled out throughout the world.

That's the opinion of Juventus manager Giovanni Trapattoni, who masterminds the star-studded Italian champions.

He says: "The World Cup showed many teams could win the trophy."

"It is the same in Europe. The standard has levelled out across the world and so although we have the great names in our team, that doesn't necessarily mean we can win the European Cup."



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FIASCO!

MORLEY LASHES OUT

ASTON Villa and England winger Tony Morley has hit out at the organisation surrounding the crucial World Club Championship Final in Tokyo.

He claims that the pitch was "awful" and he had labelled the ball used for the game as "a joke".

Still smarting after the 2-0 defeat at the hands of South American champions Penarol, Tony told 'Match': "If we could play them again on a decent pitch I have no doubts that we would beat them."

The European Cup holders were bidding to become the first English side to win the prestigious trophy and the title of 'World Champions' that goes with it.

But things went horribly wrong in Tokyo and Tony summed up the feelings of the Villa side: "We were absolutely choked," he says. "The pitch was in an awful condition — it was very sandy and bumpy and didn't suit our style of play."

"And the ball was a joke. It was very light and bounced all over the place like a beach ball."

"I would love to play that game again because I don't rate Penarol very highly and I know we could beat them on a decent grass surface," he says.

Defeat came as a double blow for Tony, who had to miss out on England's European Championship game against Luxembourg because of the five-day trip to Tokyo and he admits: "All in all, it was a very frustrating week."

But there was some consolation for Tony when he spoke to England boss Bobby Robson prior to leaving for Tokyo.

"Bobby explained that it wouldn't be wise to pick me with the Tokyo trip so close, but he did say it was nothing to do with the way I was playing," says Tony.

"It was nice of him to come along and explain and I am confident I will get another chance because I still believe I am the best winger in the country."

The disappointment of the World Club championship game



Tony Morley — double disappointment.

has made Tony and the rest of the Villa side even more determined to retain the European Cup this season.

But they face a daunting task in the Quarter Finals of the competition in March when they come up against Italian giants Juventus.

Tony admits that the tie will be difficult but says: "If we beat Juventus, we can go all the way. This is the crunch game."

"They boast half the national side in their team with world class players such as Platini and Boniek thrown in for good measure, so obviously they are going to be difficult to beat."

"But like the rest of the Villa side, I am looking forward to the game and see it as a chance to compare our skills with the best in the world."

Tony believes Villa can retain the European Cup and he hopes the team achieves that goal by beating League Champions Liverpool in an all-English Final.

"Liverpool are the one side we hope to avoid before the Final because, over two legs, they are the best team in Europe," says Tony.

"But I think on the night we are capable of beating anyone."

CHRISTMAS SOCCERWORD SOLUTION

Across

1. Cambridge United. 8. Goldstone Ground. 15. tackle. 16. Kember. 17. Monster. 19. Griffin. 21. Romania. 22. eye. 23. Newport. 24. extra. 25. gate. 26. White. 27. Robins. 28. Shed. 33. Knighton. 34 and 31 down. Gordon McQueen. 35. Bowers. 36. McNaught. 39. Reds. 41. player. 42. Moncur. 44. Peru. 48. Ayala. 50. Richard. 52. Mee. 53. Everton. 54. killing. 55. Elliott. 56. Galvin. 57. Athens. 59. Doncaster Rovers. 60. Rotherham United.

Down

1. Cat. 2. Mick McGuire. 3. rulings. 4. eleventh. 5. Noble. 6. through. 7. Dumbarton. 8. Gunners. 9. Luton. 10. Shrewsbury. 11. eighty. 12. raiders. 13. unfit. 14. Duncan. 18. ground. 20. Langton. 21. retake. 29. Edgar Street. 30. Tony Macedo. 31. See 34 across. 32. stolen. 35. Bannister. 37. flicks. 38. Meredith. 40. stamina. 42. Maroons. 43. upright. 45. Preston. 46. marked. 47. Wright. 49. Allen. 51. Delve. 52. Milne. 58. Sid.

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 John Buchanan.
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 Mark Kendall, Wakeley
 Gage, Gary Wall, Clive
 Walker (manager).
 FRONT ROW: Adam Sandy,
 Paul Saunders, Ian Phillips,
 Gary Saxby, Neil Brough.
 INSET: Neil Freeman (top),
 Mark Heeley (centre), Barry
 Tucker (bottom).

Northampton Town

